

# ACCA



Examiner reviewed content

## PAPER P2

### CORPORATE REPORTING (INTERNATIONAL AND UK STREAM)

STUDY TEXT

FOR EXAMS UP TO  
JUNE 2014

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# ACCA

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## PAPER P2

### CORPORATE REPORTING (INTERNATIONAL AND UNITED KINGDOM)

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BPP Learning Media is the **sole ACCA Platinum Approved Learning Partner** – content for the ACCA qualification. In this, **the only Paper P2 study text to be reviewed by the examiner:**

- We **discuss** the **best strategies** for studying for ACCA exams
- We **highlight** the **most important elements** in the syllabus and the **key skills** you will need
- We **signpost** how each chapter links to the syllabus and the study guide
- We **provide** lots of **exam focus points** demonstrating what the examiner will want you to do
- We **emphasise key points** in regular **fast forward summaries**
- We **test your knowledge** of what you've studied in **quick quizzes**
- We **examine your understanding** in our **exam question bank**
- We **reference all the important topics** in our **full index**

BPP's **Practice & Revision Kit**, **i-Pass** and **Interactive Passcard** products also supports this paper.

FOR EXAMS UP TO JUNE 2014

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# Helping you to pass – the **ONLY P2 Study Text** reviewed by the examiner!

## BPP Learning Media – the sole Platinum Approved Learning Partner - content

As ACCA's **sole Platinum Approved Learning Partner – content**, BPP Learning Media gives you the **unique opportunity** to use **examiner-reviewed** study materials for the 2013 and June 2014 exams. By incorporating the examiner's comments and suggestions regarding the depth and breadth of syllabus coverage, the BPP Learning Media Study Text provides excellent, **ACCA-approved** support for your studies.

## The PER alert

Before you can qualify as an ACCA member, you do not only have to pass all your exams but also fulfil a three year **practical experience requirement** (PER). To help you to recognise areas of the syllabus that you might be able to apply in the workplace to achieve different performance objectives, we have introduced the '**PER alert**' feature. You will find this feature throughout the Study Text to remind you that what you are **learning to pass** your ACCA exams is **equally useful to the fulfilment of the PER requirement**.

Your achievement of the PER should now be recorded in your on-line *My Experience* record.

## Tackling studying

Studying can be a daunting prospect, particularly when you have lots of other commitments. The **different features** of the text, the **purposes** of which are explained fully on the **Chapter features** page, will help you whilst studying and improve your chances of **exam success**.

## Developing exam awareness

Our Texts are completely **focused** on helping you pass your exam.

Our advice on **Studying P2** outlines the **content** of the paper, the **necessary skills** the examiner expects you to demonstrate and any **brought forward knowledge** you are expected to have.

**Exam focus points** are included within the chapters to highlight when and how specific topics were examined, or how they might be examined in the future.

## Using the Syllabus and Study Guide

You can find the syllabus and Study Guide on page ix to xxxiii of this Study Text.

## Testing what you can do

Testing yourself helps you develop the skills you need to pass the exam and also confirms that you can recall what you have learnt.

We include **Questions** – lots of them – both within chapters and in the **Exam Question Bank**, as well as **Quick Quizzes** at the end of each chapter to test your knowledge of the chapter content.

# Chapter features

Each chapter contains a number of helpful features to guide you through each topic.

## Topic list

| Topic list | Syllabus reference |
|------------|--------------------|
|            |                    |
|            |                    |
|            |                    |

What you will be studying in this chapter and the relevant section numbers, together the ACCA syllabus references.

## Introduction

Puts the chapter content in the context of the syllabus as a whole.

## Study Guide

Links the chapter content with ACCA guidance.

## Exam Guide

Highlights how examinable the chapter content is likely to be and the ways in which it could be examined.

Knowledge brought forward from earlier studies

What you are assumed to know from previous studies/exams.

FAST FORWARD

Summarises the content of main chapter headings, allowing you to preview and review each section easily.

## Examples

Demonstrate how to apply key knowledge and techniques.

## Key terms

Definitions of important concepts that can often earn you easy marks in exams.

## Exam focus points

When and how specific topics were examined, or how they may be examined in the future.

## Formula to learn

Formulae that are not given in the exam but which have to be learnt.



Gives you a useful indication of syllabus areas that closely relate to performance objectives in your Practical Experience Requirement (PER).



Question

Gives you essential practice of techniques covered in the chapter.



Case Study

Real world examples of theories and techniques.

## Chapter Roundup

A full list of the Fast Forwards included in the chapter, providing an easy source of review.

## Quick Quiz

A quick test of your knowledge of the main topics in the chapter.

## Exam Question Bank

Found at the back of the Study Text with more comprehensive chapter questions. Cross referenced for easy navigation.

## Studying P2

Paper P2 Corporate Reporting is a tough paper, reflecting the demands that will be made upon the professional accountant in his or her working life. At the Fundamentals level, you will have studied the essentials of financial statement preparation and analysis, including those of group accounts. At the Professional level, these essentials will be assumed knowledge. You will be required to apply them, assuming the role of a professional adviser and analyst to the management as well as the shareholders and other stakeholders.

## What is the paper about?

The P2 syllabus comprises eight main areas:

- A The professional and ethical duty of the accountant
- B The financial reporting framework
- C Reporting the financial performance of entities
- D Financial statements of groups of entities
- E Specialised entities
- F Implications of changes in accounting regulation on financial reporting
- G The appraisal of financial performance and position of entities
- H Current developments

There is, of course, some overlap between these areas. For example, if you are discussing current developments (H), you might be talking about the proposed changes to accounting for business combinations (D) and considering the implications of changes in accounting regulation (F) and perhaps even the ethical duty of the accountant to report those changes fairly and accurately (A).

## What skills must you demonstrate?

At the Fundamentals level, the questions would be more easily categorised into syllabus areas. However, at this level you may need to demonstrate knowledge, skills and thinking from outside the syllabus area that the question seems to be about on the surface. The examiner has stated:

Students should be capable of relating professional issues to relevant concepts and practical situations. The evaluation of alternative accounting practices and the identification and prioritisation of issues will be a key element of the paper. Professional and ethical judgement will need to be exercised, together with the integration of technical knowledge when addressing corporate reporting issues in a business context.

So the paper is not predictable. That said, clear guidance has been given. The compulsory Section A question, worth 50 marks, will always be on group accounts. It will also deal with issues in financial reporting and will be case study based. In Section B, questions could be on any area of the syllabus, but we have been told that two questions will be scenario based and one question will be an essay. You have a choice of two from three.

Increasingly, questions are discursive rather than numerical, so it is vital that you get practice at answering this type of question.

## Important note for UK students

If you are sitting the UK P2 paper you will be studying under International standards and up to 20 marks will be for comparisons between International and UK standards.

This Text covers all the topics you need to know under International standards and we have produced a supplement covering the additional UK issues.

# Exam technique for P2

## Do not be needlessly intimidated

There is no shortcut to passing this exam. It looks very difficult indeed, and many students wonder if they will ever pass. But many do. How do they do this?

## Easy marks

All the questions are demanding, but there are many easy marks to be gained. Suppose, for example, you had a consolidated statement of cash flows with a disposal, some foreign exchange complications and an impairment calculation. There will be easy marks available simply for the basic cash flow aspects, setting out the proforma, setting up your workings, presenting your work neatly. If you recognise, as you should, that the disposal needs to be taken into account, of course you will get marks for that, even if you make a mistake in the arithmetic. If you get the foreign exchange right, so much the better, but you could pass the question comfortably omitting this altogether. If you're short of time, this is what you should do.

## Be ruthless in ignoring the complications

Look at the question. Within reason, if there are complications – often only worth a few marks – that you know you will not have time or knowledge to do, cross them out. It will make you feel better. Then tackle the bits you can do. This is how people pass a seemingly impossible paper.

## Answer all questions and all parts of questions

The examiner frequently comments that students don't do this, so they miss easy opportunities to gain marks.

## Be ruthless in allocating your time

At BPP, we have seen how very intelligent students do one almost perfect question, one averagely good and one sketchy. For a fifty mark question, the first twenty marks are the easiest to get. Then you have to push it up to what you think is thirty to get yourself a clear pass. For a twenty-five mark question, the first eight to ten marks are the easiest to get, and then you must try to push it up to fifteen.

Do your best question either first or second, and the compulsory question either first or second. The compulsory question, being on groups, will always have some easy marks available for consolidation techniques.

## Corporate Reporting (INT) (P2) June & December 2013

This syllabus and study guide is designed to help with planning study and to provide detailed information on what could be assessed in any examination session.

### THE STRUCTURE OF THE SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

#### Relational diagram of paper with other papers

This diagram shows direct and indirect links between this paper and other papers preceding or following it. Some papers are directly underpinned by other papers such as Advanced Performance Management by Performance Management. These links are shown as solid line arrows. Other papers only have indirect relationships with each other such as links existing between the accounting and auditing papers. The links between these are shown as dotted line arrows. This diagram indicates where you are expected to have underpinning knowledge and where it would be useful to review previous learning before undertaking study.

#### Overall aim of the syllabus

This explains briefly the overall objective of the paper and indicates in the broadest sense the capabilities to be developed within the paper.

#### Main capabilities

This paper's aim is broken down into several main capabilities which divide the syllabus and study guide into discrete sections.

#### Relational diagram of the main capabilities

This diagram illustrates the flows and links between the main capabilities (sections) of the syllabus and should be used as an aid to planning teaching and learning in a structured way.

#### Syllabus rationale

This is a narrative explaining how the syllabus is structured and how the main capabilities are linked. The rationale also explains in further detail what the examination intends to assess and why.

#### Detailed syllabus

This shows the breakdown of the main capabilities (sections) of the syllabus into subject areas. This is the blueprint for the detailed study guide.

#### Approach to examining the syllabus

This section briefly explains the structure of the examination and how it is assessed.

#### Study Guide

This is the main document that students, tuition providers and publishers should use as the basis of their studies, instruction and materials. Examinations will be based on the detail of the study guide which comprehensively identifies what could be assessed in any examination session. The study guide is a precise reflection and breakdown of the syllabus. It is divided into sections based on the main capabilities identified in the syllabus. These sections are divided into subject areas which relate to the sub-capabilities included in the detailed syllabus. Subject areas are broken down into sub-headings which describe the detailed outcomes that could be assessed in examinations. These outcomes are described using verbs indicating what exams may require students to demonstrate, and the broad intellectual level at which these may need to be demonstrated (\*see intellectual levels below).

#### Learning Materials

ACCA's Approved Learning Partner - content (ALP-c) is the programme through which ACCA approves learning materials from high quality content providers designed to support study towards ACCA's qualifications.

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For information about ACCA's Approved Learning Partners - content, please go ACCA's Content Provider Directory.

The Directory also lists materials by Subscribers, these materials have not been quality assured by ACCA but may be helpful if used in conjunction with approved learning materials. You will also find details of Examiner suggested Additional Reading which may be a useful supplement to approved learning materials.

ACCA's Content Provider Directory can be found here—  
[http://www.accaglobal.com/learningproviders/alpc/content\\_provider\\_directory/search/](http://www.accaglobal.com/learningproviders/alpc/content_provider_directory/search/).

Relevant articles will also be published in Student Accountant.

### INTELLECTUAL LEVELS

The syllabus is designed to progressively broaden and deepen the knowledge, skills and professional values demonstrated by the student on their way through the qualification.

The specific capabilities within the detailed syllabuses and study guides are assessed at one of three intellectual or cognitive levels:

Level 1: Knowledge and comprehension

Level 2: Application and analysis

Level 3: Synthesis and evaluation

Very broadly, these intellectual levels relate to the three cognitive levels at which the Knowledge module, the Skills module and the Professional level are assessed.

Each subject area in the detailed study guide included in this document is given a 1, 2, or 3 superscript, denoting intellectual level, marked at the end of each relevant line. This gives an indication of the intellectual depth at which an area could be assessed within the examination. However, while level 1 broadly equates with the Knowledge module, level 2 equates to the Skills module and level 3 to the Professional level, some lower level skills can continue to be assessed as the student progresses through each module and level. This reflects that at each stage of study there will be a

requirement to broaden, as well as deepen capabilities. It is also possible that occasionally some higher level capabilities may be assessed at lower levels.

### LEARNING HOURS AND EDUCATION RECOGNITION

The ACCA qualification does not prescribe or recommend any particular number of learning hours for examinations because study and learning patterns and styles vary greatly between people and organisations. This also recognises the wide diversity of personal, professional and educational circumstances in which ACCA students find themselves.

As a member of the International Federation of Accountants, ACCA seeks to enhance the education recognition of its qualification on both national and international education frameworks, and with educational authorities and partners globally. In doing so, ACCA aims to ensure that its qualifications are recognized and valued by governments, regulatory authorities and employers across all sectors. To this end, ACCA qualifications are currently recognized on the education frameworks in several countries. Please refer to your national education framework regulator for further information.

Each syllabus contains between 23 and 35 main subject area headings depending on the nature of the subject and how these areas have been broken down.

### GUIDE TO EXAM STRUCTURE

The structure of examinations varies within and between modules and levels.

The Fundamentals level examinations contain 100% compulsory questions to encourage candidates to study across the breadth of each syllabus.

The Knowledge module is assessed by equivalent two-hour paper based and computer based examinations.

The Skills module examinations are all paper based three-hour papers. The structure of papers varies from ten questions in the *Corporate and Business*

Law (F4) paper to four 25 mark questions in *Financial Management* (F9). Individual questions within all Skills module papers will attract between 10 and 30 marks.

The Professional level papers are all three-hour paper based examinations, all containing two sections. Section A is compulsory, but there will be some choice offered in Section B.

For all three hour examination papers, ACCA has introduced 15 minutes reading and planning time.

This additional time is allowed at the beginning of each three-hour examination to allow candidates to read the questions and to begin planning their answers before they start writing in their answer books. This time should be used to ensure that all the information and exam requirements are properly read and understood.

During reading and planning time candidates may only annotate their question paper. They may not write anything in their answer booklets until told to do so by the invigilator.

The Essentials module papers all have a Section A containing a major case study question with all requirements totalling 50 marks relating to this case. Section B gives students a choice of two from three 25 mark questions.

Section A of both the P4 and P5 Options papers contain one 50 mark compulsory question, and Section B will offer a choice of two from three questions each worth 25 marks each.

Section A of each of the P6 and P7 Options papers contains 60 compulsory marks from two questions; question 1 attracting 35 marks, and question 2 attracting 25 marks. Section B of both these Options papers will offer a choice of two from three questions, with each question attracting 20 marks.

All Professional level exams contain four professional marks.

The pass mark for all ACCA Qualification examination papers is 50%.

## GUIDE TO EXAMINATION ASSESSMENT

ACCA reserves the right to examine anything contained within the study guide at any examination session. This includes knowledge, techniques, principles, theories, and concepts as specified.

For the financial accounting, audit and assurance, law and tax papers except where indicated otherwise, ACCA will publish *examinable documents* once a year to indicate exactly what regulations and legislation could potentially be assessed within identified examination sessions..

For paper based examinations regulation **issued** or legislation **passed** on or before 30<sup>th</sup> September annually, will be assessed from June 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year to May 31<sup>st</sup> of the year after. . Please refer to the examinable documents for the paper (where relevant) for further information.

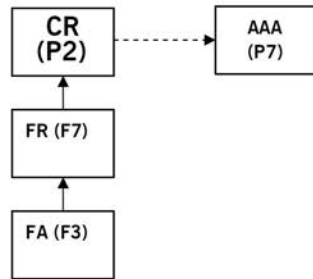
Regulation issued or legislation passed in accordance with the above dates may be examinable even if the **effective** date is in the future.

The term issued or passed relates to when regulation or legislation has been formally approved.

The term effective relates to when regulation or legislation must be applied to an entity transactions and business practices.

The study guide offers more detailed guidance on the depth and level at which the examinable documents will be examined. The study guide should therefore be read in conjunction with the examinable documents list.

## Syllabus



### AIM

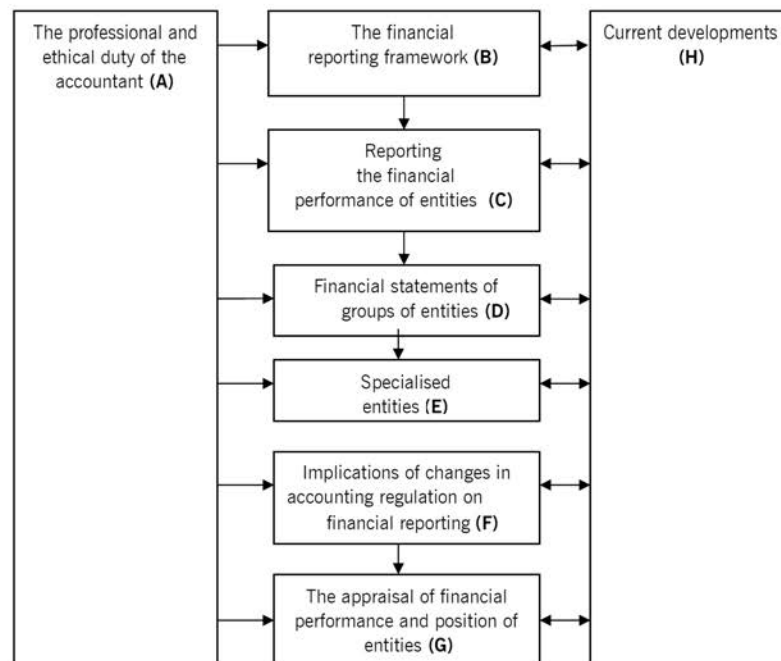
To apply knowledge, skills and exercise professional judgement in the application and evaluation of financial reporting principles and practices in a range of business contexts and situations.

### MAIN CAPABILITIES

On successful completion of this paper candidates should be able to:

- A** Discuss the professional and ethical duties of the accountant
- B** Evaluate the financial reporting framework
- C** Advise on and report the financial performance of entities
- D** Prepare the financial statements of groups of entities in accordance with relevant accounting standards
- E** Explain reporting issues relating to specialised entities
- F** Discuss the implications of changes in accounting regulation on financial reporting
- G** Appraise the financial performance and position of entities
- H** Evaluate current developments

### RELATIONAL DIAGRAM OF MAIN CAPABILITIES



## **RATIONALE**

The syllabus for Paper P2, *Corporate Reporting*, assumes knowledge acquired at the Fundamentals level including the core technical capabilities to prepare and analyse financial reports for single and combined entities.

The Paper P2 syllabus takes the subject into greater depth and contextualises the role of the accountant as a professional steward and adviser/analyst by initially exploring the wider professional duties and responsibilities of the accountant to the stakeholders of an organisation.

The syllabus examines the financial reporting framework within which the accountant operates and examines detailed financial reporting requirements for entities leading to the preparation of group financial reports in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice and relevant standards.

The syllabus then deals with the nature of reporting for specialised entities including not-for-profit and small and medium-sized enterprises.

The final sections of the syllabus explore – in more depth – the role of the accountant as financial analyst and adviser through the assessment of financial performance and position of entities, and the accountant's role in assessing and advising on the implications of accounting regulation on corporate reporting.

Finally, the syllabus covers the evaluation of current developments and their implications for financial reporting.

## **DETAILED SYLLABUS**

### **A The professional and ethical duty of the accountant**

1. Professional behaviour and compliance with accounting standards
2. Ethical requirements of corporate reporting and the consequences of unethical behaviour
3. Social responsibility

### **B The financial reporting framework**

1. The applications, strengths and weaknesses of an accounting framework
2. Critical evaluation of principles and practices

### **C Reporting the financial performance of entities**

1. Performance reporting
2. Non-current assets
3. Financial instruments
4. Leases
5. Segment reporting
6. Employee benefits
7. Income taxes
8. Provisions, contingencies and events after the reporting date
9. Related parties
10. Share-based payment
11. Reporting requirements of small and medium-sized entities (SMEs)

### **D Financial statements of groups of entities**

1. Group accounting including statements of cash flows
2. Continuing and discontinued interests
3. Changes in group structures
4. Foreign transactions and entities

### **E Specialised entities and specialised transactions**

1. Financial reporting in specialised, not-for-profit and public sector entities
2. Entity reconstructions

**F Implications of changes in accounting regulation on financial reporting**

1. The effect of changes in accounting standards on accounting systems
2. Proposed changes to accounting standards

**G The appraisal of financial performance and position of entities**

1. The creation of suitable accounting policies
2. Analysis and interpretation of financial information and measurement of performance

**H Current developments**

1. Environmental and social reporting
2. Convergence between national and international reporting standards
3. Current reporting issues

## APPROACH TO EXAMINING THE SYLLABUS

The syllabus is assessed by a three-hour paper-based examination. It examines professional competences within the corporate reporting environment.

Students will be examined on concepts, theories, and principles, and on their ability to question and comment on proposed accounting treatments.

Students should be capable of relating professional issues to relevant concepts and practical situations. The evaluation of alternative accounting practices and the identification and prioritisation of issues will be a key element of the paper. Professional and ethical judgement will need to be exercised, together with the integration of technical knowledge when addressing corporate reporting issues in a business context.

Global issues will be addressed via the current issues questions on the paper. Students will be required to adopt either a stakeholder or an external focus in answering questions and to demonstrate personal skills such as problem solving, dealing with information and decision making.

The paper also deals with specific professional knowledge appropriate to the preparation and presentation of consolidated and other financial statements from accounting data, to conform with accounting standards.

The paper will comprise two sections.

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Section A Compulsory question   | 50 marks         |
| Section B 2 from 3 questions of |                  |
| 25 marks each                   | <u>50 marks</u>  |
|                                 | <u>100 marks</u> |

Section A will consist of one scenario based question worth 50 marks. It will deal with the preparation of consolidated financial statements including group statements of cash flows and with issues in financial reporting.

Students will be required to answer two out of three questions in Section B, which will normally comprise two questions which will be scenario or case-study based and one essay question which may have some computational element. Section B could deal with any aspects of the syllabus.

## Study Guide

### A THE PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL DUTIES OF THE ACCOUNTANT

#### 1. Professional behaviour and compliance with accounting standards

- a) Appraise and discuss the ethical and professional issues in advising on corporate reporting.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Assess the relevance and importance of ethical and professional issues in complying with accounting standards.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### 2. Ethical requirements of corporate reporting and the consequences of unethical behaviour

- a) Appraise the potential ethical implications of professional and managerial decisions in the preparation of corporate reports.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Assess the consequences of not upholding ethical principles in the preparation of corporate reports.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### 3. Social Responsibility

- a) Discuss the increased demand for transparency in corporate reports, and the emergence of non-financial reporting standards.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Discuss the progress towards a framework for environmental and sustainability reporting.<sup>[3]</sup>

### B THE FINANCIAL REPORTING FRAMEWORK

#### 1. The applications, strengths and weaknesses of an accounting framework

- a) Evaluate the valuation models adopted by standard setters.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Discuss the use of an accounting framework in underpinning the production of accounting standards.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Assess the success of such a framework in introducing rigorous and consistent accounting standards.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### 2. Critical evaluation of principles and practices

- a) Identify the relationship between accounting theory and practice.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Critically evaluate accounting principles and practices used in corporate reporting.<sup>[3]</sup>

### C REPORTING THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF ENTITIES

#### 1. Performance reporting

- a) Prepare reports relating to corporate performance for external stakeholders.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Discuss the issues relating to the recognition of revenue.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Evaluate proposed changes to reporting financial performance.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### 2. Non-current assets

- a) Apply and discuss the timing of the recognition of non-current assets and the determination of their carrying amounts including impairments and revaluations.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Apply and discuss the treatment of non-current assets held for sale.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Apply and discuss the accounting treatment of investment properties including classification, recognition and measurement issues.<sup>[3]</sup>
- d) Apply and discuss the accounting treatment of intangible assets including the criteria for recognition and measurement subsequent to acquisition and classification.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### 3. Financial Instruments

- a) Apply and discuss the recognition and de-recognition of financial assets and financial liabilities.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Apply and discuss the classification of financial assets and financial liabilities and their measurement.<sup>[2]</sup>



- c) Apply and discuss the treatment of gains and losses arising on financial assets and financial liabilities.<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) Apply and discuss the treatment of impairments of financial assets.<sup>[2]</sup>
- e) Account for derivative financial instruments, and simple embedded derivatives.<sup>[2]</sup>
- f) Outline the principles of hedge accounting and account for fair value hedges and cash flow hedges including hedge effectiveness.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### **4. Leases**

- a) Apply and discuss the classification of leases and accounting for leases by lessors and lessees.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Account for and discuss sale and leaseback transactions.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### **5. Segment Reporting**

- a) Determine the nature and extent of reportable segments.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Specify and discuss the nature of segment information to be disclosed.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### **6. Employee Benefits**

- a) Apply and discuss the accounting treatment of short term and long term employee benefits.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Apply and discuss the accounting treatment of defined contribution and defined benefit plans.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Account for gains and losses on settlements and curtailments.<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) Account for the "Asset Ceiling" test and the reporting of actuarial gains and losses.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### **7. Income taxes**

- a) Apply and discuss the recognition and measurement of deferred tax liabilities and deferred tax assets.<sup>[3]</sup>

- b) Determine the recognition of tax expense or income and its inclusion in the financial statements.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### **8. Provisions, contingencies and events after the reporting date**

- a) Apply and discuss the recognition, de-recognition and measurement of provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets including environmental provisions.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Calculate and discuss restructuring provisions.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Apply and discuss the accounting for events after the reporting date.<sup>[3]</sup>
- d) Determine and report going concern issues arising after the reporting date.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### **9. Related parties**

- a) Determine the parties considered to be related to an entity.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Identify the implications of related party relationships and the need for disclosure.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### **10. Share based payment**

- a) Apply and discuss the recognition and measurement criteria for share-based payment transactions.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Account for modifications, cancellations and settlements of share based payment transactions.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### **11. Reporting requirements of small and medium-sized entities (SMEs)**

- a) Outline the principal considerations in developing a set of accounting standards for SMEs.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Discuss solutions to the problem of differential financial reporting.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Discuss the reasons why the IFRS for SME's does not address certain topics.<sup>[3]</sup>

- d) Discuss the accounting treatments not allowable under the IFRS for SME's including the revaluation model for certain assets.<sup>[3]</sup>
- e) Discuss and apply the simplifications introduced by the IFRS for SME's including accounting for goodwill and intangible assets, financial instruments, defined benefit schemes, exchange differences and associates and joint ventures.<sup>[3]</sup>

## **D FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF GROUPS OF ENTITIES**

### **1. Group accounting including statements of cash flows**

- a) Apply the method of accounting for business combinations including complex group structures.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Apply the principles in determining the cost of a business combination.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Apply the recognition and measurement criteria for identifiable acquired assets and liabilities and goodwill including step acquisitions.<sup>[3]</sup>
- d) Apply and discuss the criteria used to identify a subsidiary and an associate.<sup>[3]</sup>
- e) Determine and apply appropriate procedures to be used in preparing group financial statements.<sup>[3]</sup>
- f) Identify and outline:
  - the circumstances in which a group is required to prepare consolidated financial statements.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - the circumstances when a group may claim and exemption from the preparation of consolidated financial statements.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - why directors may not wish to consolidate a subsidiary and where this is permitted.<sup>[2]</sup>
- g) Apply the equity method of accounting for associates.<sup>[3]</sup>
- h) Outline and apply the key definitions and accounting methods which relate to interests in joint arrangements.<sup>[3]</sup>

- i) Prepare and discuss group statements of cash flows.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **2. Continuing and discontinued interests**

- a) Prepare group financial statements where activities have been discontinued, or have been acquired or disposed of in the period.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Apply and discuss the treatment of a subsidiary which has been acquired exclusively with a view to subsequent disposal.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **3. Changes in group structures**

- a) Discuss the reasons behind a group reorganisation.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Evaluate and assess the principal terms of a proposed group reorganisation.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **4. Foreign transactions and entities**

- a) Outline and apply the translation of foreign currency amounts and transactions into the functional currency and the presentational currency.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Account for the consolidation of foreign operations and their disposal.<sup>[2]</sup>

## **E SPECIALISED ENTITIES AND SPECIALISED TRANSACTIONS**

### **1. Financial reporting in specialised, not-for-profit and public sector entities**

- a) Apply knowledge from the syllabus to straightforward transactions and events arising in specialised, not-for-profit, and public sector entities.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **2. Entity reconstructions**

- a) Identify when an entity may no longer be viewed as a going concern or uncertainty exists surrounding the going concern status.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Identify and outline the circumstances in which a reconstruction would be an appropriate alternative to a company liquidation.<sup>[2]</sup>

- c) Outline the appropriate accounting treatment required relating to reconstructions.<sup>[2]</sup>

## **F IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING REGULATION ON FINANCIAL REPORTING**

### **1. The effect of changes in accounting standards on accounting systems**

- a) Apply and discuss the accounting implications of the first time adoption of a body of new accounting standards.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **2. Proposed changes to accounting standards**

- a) Identify issues and deficiencies which have led to a proposed change to an accounting standard.<sup>[2]</sup>

## **G THE APPRAISAL OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND POSITION OF ENTITIES**

### **1. The creation of suitable accounting policies**

- a) Develop accounting policies for an entity which meet the entity's reporting requirements.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Identify accounting treatments adopted in financial statements and assess their suitability and acceptability.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **2. Analysis and interpretation of financial information and measurement of performance**

- a) Select and calculate relevant indicators of financial and non-financial performance.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Identify and evaluate significant features and issues in financial statements.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Highlight inconsistencies in financial information through analysis and application of knowledge.<sup>[3]</sup>
- d) Make inferences from the analysis of information taking into account the limitation of the information, the analytical methods used and the business environment in which the entity operates.<sup>[3]</sup>

## **H CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS**

### **1. Environmental and social reporting**

- a) Appraise the impact of environmental, social, and ethical factors on performance measurement.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Evaluate current reporting requirements in the area.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Discuss why entities might include disclosures relating to the environment and society.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **2. Convergence between national and international reporting standards**

- a) Evaluate the implications of worldwide convergence with International Financial Reporting Standards.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Discuss the influence of national regulators on international financial reporting.<sup>[2]</sup>

### **3. Current reporting issues**

- a) Discuss current issues in corporate reporting.<sup>[3]</sup>

**NOTE OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO STUDY  
GUIDE PAPER P2 INT**

ACCA periodically reviews its qualification syllabuses so that they fully meet the needs of stakeholders such as employers, students, regulatory and advisory bodies and learning providers.

**Table 1 – Additions to P2 INT**

There have not been any additions to the 2012 study guide for 2013. However there have been minor amendment to the wording of some of the study guide outcomes corresponding to changes within examinable documents.

**Table 2 – Deletions to P2 INT**

There have not been any deletions to the 2012 study guide for 2013. However there have been minor amendments to the wording of some of the study guide outcomes corresponding to changes within examinable documents.

## Corporate Reporting (UK) (P2) June & December 2013

This syllabus and study guide is designed to help with planning study and to provide detailed information on what could be assessed in any examination session.

### THE STRUCTURE OF THE SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

#### Relational diagram of paper with other papers

This diagram shows direct and indirect links between this paper and other papers preceding or following it. Some papers are directly underpinned by other papers such as Advanced Performance Management by Performance Management. These links are shown as solid line arrows. Other papers only have indirect relationships with each other such as links existing between the accounting and auditing papers. The links between these are shown as dotted line arrows. This diagram indicates where you are expected to have underpinning knowledge and where it would be useful to review previous learning before undertaking study.

#### Overall aim of the syllabus

This explains briefly the overall objective of the paper and indicates in the broadest sense the capabilities to be developed within the paper.

#### Main capabilities

This paper's aim is broken down into several main capabilities which divide the syllabus and study guide into discrete sections.

#### Relational diagram of the main capabilities

This diagram illustrates the flows and links between the main capabilities (sections) of the syllabus and should be used as an aid to planning teaching and learning in a structured way.

#### Syllabus rationale

This is a narrative explaining how the syllabus is structured and how the main capabilities are linked. The rationale also explains in further detail what the examination intends to assess and why.

#### Detailed syllabus

This shows the breakdown of the main capabilities (sections) of the syllabus into subject areas. This is the blueprint for the detailed study guide.

#### Approach to examining the syllabus

This section briefly explains the structure of the examination and how it is assessed.

#### Study Guide

This is the main document that students, tuition providers and publishers should use as the basis of their studies, instruction and materials. Examinations will be based on the detail of the study guide which comprehensively identifies what could be assessed in any examination session. The study guide is a precise reflection and breakdown of the syllabus. It is divided into sections based on the main capabilities identified in the syllabus. These sections are divided into subject areas which relate to the sub-capabilities included in the detailed syllabus. Subject areas are broken down into sub-headings which describe the detailed outcomes that could be assessed in examinations. These outcomes are described using verbs indicating what exams may require students to demonstrate, and the broad intellectual level at which these may need to be demonstrated (\*see intellectual levels below).

#### Learning Materials

ACCA's Approved Learning Partner - content (ALP-c) is the programme through which ACCA approves learning materials from high quality content providers designed to support study towards ACCA's qualifications.

ACCA has one Platinum Approved Learning Partner content which is BPP Learning Media. In addition, there are a number of Gold Approved Learning Partners - content.

For information about ACCA's Approved Learning Partners - content, please go ACCA's Content Provider Directory.

The Directory also lists materials by Subscribers, these materials have not been quality assured by ACCA but may be helpful if used in conjunction with approved learning materials. You will also find details of Examiner suggested Additional Reading which may be a useful supplement to approved learning materials.

ACCA's Content Provider Directory can be found here—  
[http://www.accaglobal.com/learningproviders/alpc/content\\_provider\\_directory/search/](http://www.accaglobal.com/learningproviders/alpc/content_provider_directory/search/).

Relevant articles will also be published in Student Accountant.

### INTELLECTUAL LEVELS

The syllabus is designed to progressively broaden and deepen the knowledge, skills and professional values demonstrated by the student on their way through the qualification.

The specific capabilities within the detailed syllabuses and study guides are assessed at one of three intellectual or cognitive levels:

Level 1: Knowledge and comprehension  
Level 2: Application and analysis  
Level 3: Synthesis and evaluation

Very broadly, these intellectual levels relate to the three cognitive levels at which the Knowledge module, the Skills module and the Professional level are assessed.

Each subject area in the detailed study guide included in this document is given a 1, 2, or 3 superscript, denoting intellectual level, marked at the end of each relevant line. This gives an indication of the intellectual depth at which an area could be assessed within the examination. However, while level 1 broadly equates with the Knowledge module, level 2 equates to the Skills module and level 3 to the Professional level, some lower level skills can continue to be assessed as the student progresses through each module and level. This reflects that at each stage of study there will be a

requirement to broaden, as well as deepen capabilities. It is also possible that occasionally some higher level capabilities may be assessed at lower levels.

### LEARNING HOURS AND EDUCATION RECOGNITION

The ACCA qualification does not prescribe or recommend any particular number of learning hours for examinations because study and learning patterns and styles vary greatly between people and organisations. This also recognises the wide diversity of personal, professional and educational circumstances in which ACCA students find themselves.

As a member of the International Federation of Accountants, ACCA seeks to enhance the education recognition of its qualification on both national and international education frameworks, and with educational authorities and partners globally. In doing so, ACCA aims to ensure that its qualifications are recognized and valued by governments, regulatory authorities and employers across all sectors. To this end, ACCA qualifications are currently recognized on the education frameworks in several countries. Please refer to your national education framework regulator for further information.

Each syllabus contains between 23 and 35 main subject area headings depending on the nature of the subject and how these areas have been broken down.

### GUIDE TO EXAM STRUCTURE

The structure of examinations varies within and between modules and levels.

The Fundamentals level examinations contain 100% compulsory questions to encourage candidates to study across the breadth of each syllabus.

The Knowledge module is assessed by equivalent two-hour paper based and computer based examinations.

The Skills module examinations are all paper based three-hour papers. The structure of papers varies from ten questions in the *Corporate and Business*

Law (F4) paper to four 25 mark questions in *Financial Management* (F9). Individual questions within all Skills module papers will attract between 10 and 30 marks.

The Professional level papers are all three-hour paper based examinations, all containing two sections. Section A is compulsory, but there will be some choice offered in Section B.

For all three hour examination papers, ACCA has introduced 15 minutes reading and planning time.

This additional time is allowed at the beginning of each three-hour examination to allow candidates to read the questions and to begin planning their answers before they start writing in their answer books. This time should be used to ensure that all the information and exam requirements are properly read and understood.

During reading and planning time candidates may only annotate their question paper. They may not write anything in their answer booklets until told to do so by the invigilator.

The Essentials module papers all have a Section A containing a major case study question with all requirements totalling 50 marks relating to this case. Section B gives students a choice of two from three 25 mark questions.

Section A of both the P4 and P5 Options papers contain one 50 mark compulsory question, and Section B will offer a choice of two from three questions each worth 25 marks each.

Section A of each of the P6 and P7 Options papers contains 60 compulsory marks from two questions; question 1 attracting 35 marks, and question 2 attracting 25 marks. Section B of both these Options papers will offer a choice of two from three questions, with each question attracting 20 marks.

All Professional level exams contain four professional marks.

The pass mark for all ACCA Qualification examination papers is 50%.

## GUIDE TO EXAMINATION ASSESSMENT

ACCA reserves the right to examine anything contained within the study guide at any examination session. This includes knowledge, techniques, principles, theories, and concepts as specified.

For the financial accounting, audit and assurance, law and tax papers except where indicated otherwise, ACCA will publish *examinable documents* once a year to indicate exactly what regulations and legislation could potentially be assessed within identified examination sessions..

For paper based examinations regulation **issued** or legislation **passed** on or before 30<sup>th</sup> September annually, will be assessed from June 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year to May 31<sup>st</sup> of the year after. . Please refer to the examinable documents for the paper (where relevant) for further information.

Regulation issued or legislation passed in accordance with the above dates may be examinable even if the **effective** date is in the future.

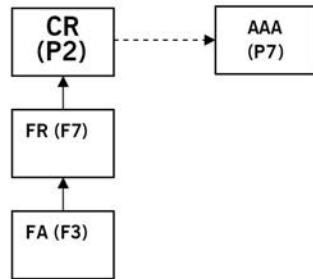
The term issued or passed relates to when regulation or legislation has been formally approved.

The term effective relates to when regulation or legislation must be applied to an entity transactions and business practices.

The study guide offers more detailed guidance on the depth and level at which the examinable documents will be examined. The study guide should therefore be read in conjunction with the examinable documents list.



## Syllabus



### AIM

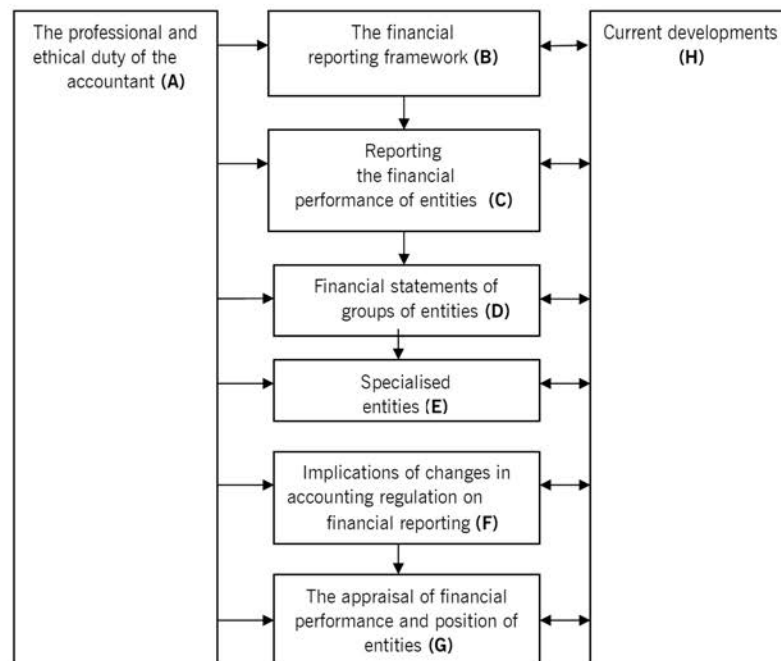
To apply knowledge, skills and exercise professional judgement in the application and evaluation of financial reporting principles and practices in a range of business contexts and situations.

### MAIN CAPABILITIES

On successful completion of this paper candidates should be able to:

- A** Discuss the professional and ethical duties of the accountant
- B** Evaluate the financial reporting framework
- C** Advise on and report the financial performance of entities
- D** Prepare the financial statements of groups of entities in accordance with relevant accounting standards
- E** Explain reporting issues relating to specialised entities
- F** Discuss the implications of changes in accounting regulation on financial reporting
- G** Appraise the financial performance and position of entities
- H** Evaluate current developments

### RELATIONAL DIAGRAM OF MAIN CAPABILITIES



## RATIONALE

The syllabus for paper P2, *Corporate Reporting*, assumes knowledge acquired at the Fundamentals level including the core technical capabilities to prepare and analyse financial reports for single and combined entities.

The Paper P2 syllabus takes the subject into greater depth and contextualises the role of the accountant as a professional steward and adviser/analyst by initially exploring the wider professional duties and responsibilities of the accountant to the stakeholders of an organisation.

The syllabus examines the financial reporting framework within which the accountant operates and examines detailed financial reporting requirements for entities leading to the preparation of group financial reports in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice and relevant standards.

The syllabus then deals with the nature of reporting for specialised entities including not-for-profit and small and medium-sized enterprises.

The final sections of the syllabus explore – in more depth – the role of the accountant as financial analyst and adviser through the assessment of financial performance and position of entities, and the accountant's role in assessing and advising on the implications of accounting regulation on corporate reporting.

Finally, the syllabus covers the evaluation of current developments and their implications for financial reporting.

For the purpose of this exam, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) are the main accounting standards examined in the preparation of financial information. The key differences between UK GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards are looked at on a subject by subject basis.

## DETAILED SYLLABUS

### A The professional and ethical duty of the accountant

1. Professional behaviour and compliance with accounting standards
2. Ethical requirements of corporate reporting and the consequences of unethical behaviour
3. Social responsibility

### B The legal and financial reporting framework

1. The applications, strengths and weaknesses of an accounting framework
2. Critical evaluation of principles and practices
3. The legal requirements relating to the preparation of single entity financial reporting statements

### C Reporting the financial performance of entities including key differences between IFRS and UK GAAP

1. Performance reporting
2. Non-current assets
3. Financial instruments
4. Leases
5. Segment reporting
6. Employee benefits
7. Taxation
8. Provisions, contingencies and events after the reporting date
9. Related parties
10. Share-based payment
11. Reporting requirements of small and medium-sized entities (SMEs)

**D Financial statements of groups of entities including key differences between IFRS and UK GAAP**

1. Group accounting including cash flow statements
2. Continuing and discontinued interests
3. Changes in group structures
4. Foreign transactions and entities

**E Specialised entities and specialised transactions**

1. Financial reporting in specialised, not-for-profit and public sector entities
2. Entity schemes of arrangement and reconstructions

**F Implications of changes in accounting regulation on financial reporting**

1. The effect of changes in accounting standards on accounting systems
2. Proposed changes to accounting standards

**G The appraisal of financial performance and position of entities**

1. The creation of suitable accounting policies
2. Analysis and interpretation of financial information and measurement of performance

**H Current developments**

1. Environmental and social reporting
2. Convergence between national and international reporting standards
3. Current reporting issues

## APPROACH TO EXAMINING THE SYLLABUS

The syllabus is assessed by a three-hour paper-based examination. It examines professional competences within the corporate reporting environment.

Students will be examined on concepts, theories, and principles, and on their ability to question and comment on proposed accounting treatments.

Students should be capable of relating professional issues to relevant concepts and practical situations. The evaluation of alternative accounting practices and the identification and prioritisation of issues will be a key element of the paper. Professional and ethical judgement will need to be exercised, together with the integration of technical knowledge when addressing corporate reporting issues in a business context.

Global issues will be addressed via the current issues questions on the paper. Students will be required to adopt either a stakeholder or an external focus in answering questions and to demonstrate personal skills such as problem solving, dealing with information and decision making.

The paper also deals with specific professional knowledge appropriate to the preparation and presentation of consolidated and other financial statements from accounting data to conform with accounting standards.

The paper will comprise two sections.

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Section A Compulsory question   | 50 marks         |
| Section B 2 from 3 questions of |                  |
| 25 marks each                   | <u>50 marks</u>  |
|                                 | <u>100 marks</u> |

Section A will consist of one scenario-based question worth 50 marks. It will deal with the preparation of consolidated financial statements including group cash flow statements and with issues in financial reporting.

Students will be required to answer two out of three questions in Section B, which will normally comprise two questions which will be scenario or case-study based and one essay question which may have some computational element. Section B could deal with any aspects of the syllabus.

# Study Guide

## A THE PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL DUTIES OF THE ACCOUNTANT

### 1. Professional behaviour and compliance with accounting standards

- a) Appraise and discuss the ethical and professional issues in advising on corporate reporting.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Assess the relevance and importance of ethical and professional issues in complying with accounting standards.<sup>[3]</sup>

### 2. Ethical requirements of corporate reporting and the consequences of unethical behaviour

- a) Appraise the potential ethical implications of professional and managerial decisions in the preparation of corporate reports.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Assess the consequences of not upholding ethical principles in the preparation of corporate reports.<sup>[3]</sup>

### 3. Social Responsibility

- a) Discuss the increased demand for transparency in corporate reports, and the emergence of non-financial reporting standards.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Discuss the progress towards a framework for environmental and sustainability reporting.<sup>[3]</sup>

## B THE FINANCIAL REPORTING FRAMEWORK

### 1. The applications, strengths and weaknesses of an accounting framework

- a) Evaluate the “balance sheet” and “fair value” models adopted by standard setters.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Discuss the use of an accounting framework in underpinning the production of accounting standards.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Assess the success of such a framework in introducing rigorous and consistent accounting standards.<sup>[3]</sup>

### 2. Critical evaluation of principles and practices

- a) Identify the relationship between accounting theory and practice.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Critically evaluate accounting principles and practices used in corporate reporting.<sup>[3]</sup>

### 3. Legal requirements relating to the preparation of single entity financial statements

- a) Recognise and apply the laws, regulations, accounting standards and other requirements to the preparation of statutory financial statements of an entity including the circumstances where an entity is required to prepare and present statutory financial statements.<sup>[2]</sup>

## C REPORTING THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF ENTITIES

### 1. Performance reporting

- a) Prepare reports relating to corporate performance for external stakeholders.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Discuss the issues relating to the recognition of revenue
- c) Evaluate proposed changes to reporting financial performance.<sup>[3]</sup>

### 2. Non-current assets

- a) Apply and discuss the timing of the recognition of non-current assets and the determination of their carrying amounts including impairments and revaluations.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Apply and discuss the treatment of non-current assets held for sale.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Apply and discuss the accounting treatment of investment properties including classification, recognition and measurement issues.<sup>[3]</sup>
- d) Apply and discuss the accounting treatment of intangible assets including the criteria for recognition and measurement subsequent to acquisition and classification.<sup>[3]</sup>

- 3) Discuss and apply the key differences between UK GAAP and IFRS in accounting and non-current assets including revaluation, impairment and investment property.<sup>[3]</sup>

### 3. Financial Instruments

- a) Apply and discuss the recognition and de-recognition of financial assets and financial liabilities.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Apply and discuss the classification of financial assets and financial liabilities and their measurement.<sup>[2]</sup>
- c) Apply and discuss the treatment of gains and losses arising on financial assets and financial liabilities.<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) Apply and discuss the treatment of impairments of financial assets.<sup>[2]</sup>
- e) Account for derivative financial instruments, and simple embedded derivatives.<sup>[2]</sup>
- f) Outline the principles of hedge accounting and account for fair value hedges and cash flow hedges including hedge effectiveness.<sup>[2]</sup>

### 4. Leases

- a) Apply and discuss the classification of leases and accounting for leases by lessors and lessees.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Account for and discuss sale and leaseback transactions.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Discuss and apply the key differences between UK GAAP and IFRS in accounting for leases.<sup>[3]</sup>

### 5. Segment Reporting

- a) Determine the nature and extent of reportable segments.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Specify and discuss the nature of segment information to be disclosed.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Discuss and apply the key differences between UK GAAP and IFRS in accounting for segments.<sup>[3]</sup>

### 6. Employee Benefits

- a) Apply and discuss the accounting treatment of short term and long term benefits.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Apply and discuss the accounting treatment of defined contribution and defined benefit plans.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Account for gains and losses on settlements and curtailments.<sup>[2]</sup>
- d) Account for the "Asset Ceiling" test and the reporting of actuarial gains and losses.<sup>[2]</sup>
- e) Discuss the key differences between UK GAAP and IFRS in accounting for Employee Benefits.<sup>[3]</sup>

### 7. Taxation

- a) Apply and discuss the recognition and measurement of deferred tax liabilities and deferred tax assets.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Determine the recognition of tax expense or income and its inclusion in the financial statements.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Discuss and apply the key differences between UK GAAP and IFRS in accounting for taxation.<sup>[3]</sup>

### 8. Provisions, contingencies and events after the reporting date

- a) Apply and discuss the recognition, de-recognition and measurement of provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets including environmental provisions.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Calculate and discuss restructuring provisions.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Apply and discuss the accounting for events after the reporting date.<sup>[3]</sup>
- d) Determine and report going concern issues arising after the reporting date.<sup>[3]</sup>

## 9. Related parties

- a) Determine the parties considered to be related to an entity.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Identify the implications of related party relationships and the need for disclosure.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Discuss and apply the key differences between UK GAAP and IFRS in accounting for related parties.<sup>[3]</sup>

## 10. Share based payment

- a) Apply and discuss the recognition and measurement criteria for share-based payment transactions.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Account for modifications, cancellations and settlements of share based payment transactions.<sup>[2]</sup>

## 11. Reporting requirements of small and medium-sized entities (SMEs)

- a) Outline the principal considerations in developing a set of accounting standards for SMEs.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Discuss solutions to the problem of differential financial reporting.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Discuss the reasons why the IFRS for SME's does not address certain topics.<sup>[3]</sup>
- d) Discuss the accounting treatments not allowable under the IFRS for SME's including the revaluation model for certain assets,<sup>[3]</sup>
- e) Discuss and apply the simplifications introduced by the IFRS for SME's including accounting for goodwill and intangible assets, financial instruments, defined benefit schemes, exchange differences and associates and joint ventures.<sup>[3]</sup>
- f) Discuss the key differences in principle between IFRS and UK GAAP.<sup>[2]</sup>

## D FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF GROUPS OF ENTITIES

### 1. Group accounting including cash flow statements

- a) Apply the method of accounting for business combinations including complex group structures.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Apply the principles in determining the cost of a business combination.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Apply the recognition and measurement criteria for identifiable acquired assets and liabilities and goodwill including step acquisitions.<sup>[3]</sup>
- d) Apply and discuss the criteria used to identify a subsidiary and an associate.<sup>[3]</sup>
- e) Determine and apply appropriate procedures to be used in preparing group financial statements.<sup>[3]</sup>
- f) Identify and outline (using relevant legislation, accounting standards and other applicable regulation):
  - the circumstances in which a group is required to prepare consolidated financial statements.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - the circumstances when a group may claim and exemption from the preparation of consolidated financial statements.<sup>[2]</sup>
  - why directors may not wish to consolidate a subsidiary and where this is permitted.<sup>[2]</sup>
- g) Apply the equity method of accounting for associates.<sup>[3]</sup>
- h) Outline and apply the key definitions and accounting methods which relate to interests in joint arrangements.<sup>[3]</sup>
- i) Prepare and discuss group cash flow statements.<sup>[3]</sup>
- j) Discuss and apply the key differences between UK GAAP and IFRS in accounting for business combinations



## **2. Continuing and discontinued interests**

- a) Prepare group financial statements where activities have been discontinued, or have been acquired or disposed of in the period.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Apply and discuss the treatment of a subsidiary which has been acquired exclusively with a view to subsequent disposal.<sup>[3]</sup>

## **3. Changes in group structures**

- a) Discuss the reasons behind a group reorganisation.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Evaluate and assess the principal terms of a proposed group reorganisation.<sup>[3]</sup>

## **4. Foreign transactions and entities**

- a) Outline and apply the translation of foreign currency amounts and transactions into the functional currency and the presentational currency.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Account for the consolidation of foreign operations and their disposal.<sup>[2]</sup>

## **E SPECIALISED ENTITIES AND SPECIALISED TRANSACTIONS**

### **1. Financial reporting in specialised, not-for-profit and public sector entities**

- a) Apply knowledge from the syllabus to straightforward transactions and events arising in specialised, not-for-profit, and public sector entities.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **2. Entity schemes of arrangement and reconstructions**

- a) Identify when an entity may no longer be viewed as a going concern or uncertainty exists surrounding the going concern status.<sup>[2]</sup>
- b) Identify and outline the circumstances in which a scheme of arrangement or reconstruction would be an appropriate alternative to a company liquidation.<sup>[2]</sup>

- c) Outline the appropriate accounting treatment and relevant disclosures required relating to schemes of arrangement and reconstructions.<sup>[2]</sup>

## **F IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING REGULATION ON FINANCIAL REPORTING**

### **1. The effect of changes in accounting standards on accounting systems**

- a) Apply and discuss the accounting implications of the first time adoption of a body of new accounting standards.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **2. Proposed changes to accounting standards**

- a) Identify issues and deficiencies which have led to a proposed change to an accounting standard.<sup>[2]</sup>

## **G THE APPRAISAL OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND POSITION OF ENTITIES**

### **1. The creation of suitable accounting policies**

- a) Develop accounting policies for an entity which meet the entity's reporting requirements.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Identify accounting treatments adopted in financial statements and assess their suitability and acceptability.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **2. Analysis and interpretation of financial information and measurement of performance**

- a) Select and calculate relevant indicators of financial and non-financial performance.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Identify and evaluate significant features and issues in financial statements.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Highlight inconsistencies in financial information through analysis and application of knowledge.<sup>[3]</sup>
- d) Make inferences from the analysis of information taking into account the limitation of the information, the analytical methods used and the business environment in which the entity operates.<sup>[3]</sup>

## **H CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS**

### **1. Environmental and social reporting**

- a) Appraise the impact of environmental, social, and ethical factors on performance measurement.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Evaluate current reporting requirements in the area.<sup>[3]</sup>
- c) Discuss why entities might include disclosures relating to the environment and society.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **2. Convergence between national and international reporting standards**

- a) Evaluate the implications of worldwide convergence with International Financial Reporting Standards.<sup>[3]</sup>
- b) Discuss the influence of national regulators on international financial reporting.<sup>[2]</sup>

### **3. Current reporting issues**

- a) Discuss current issues in corporate reporting.<sup>[3]</sup>

**NOTE OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO STUDY  
GUIDE PAPER P2 UK**

ACCA periodically reviews its qualification syllabuses so that they fully meet the needs of stakeholders such as employers, students, regulatory and advisory bodies and learning providers

**Table 1 – Additions to P2 UK**

There have not been any additions to the 2013 study guide. However there have been minor amendments to the wording of some of the study guide outcomes corresponding to changes within examinable documents.

**Table 2 – Deletions to P2 UK**

There have not been any deletions to the 2013 study guide. However there have been minor amendments to the wording of some of the study guide outcomes corresponding to changes within examinable documents.

# The exam paper

The paper will comprise two sections.

|   | <i>Number of marks</i> |
|---|------------------------|
| Section A: 1 compulsory case study                      | 50                     |
| Section B: Choice of 2 from 3 questions (25 marks each) | 50                     |
|   | <u>100</u>             |

**Section A** will be a scenario-based question which will include:

- The preparation of consolidated financial statements (including consolidated statements of cash flows) with adjustments on other syllabus areas
- A written part normally covering a particular accounting treatment and ethical and social issues in financial reporting.

**Section B** will normally include:

- Two scenario or case study-based questions (covering a range of standards and syllabus topics, one usually in the context of a particular industry)
- A essay-style discussion question, often encompassing current developments in corporate reporting, which may also include some short calculations.

## Analysis of past papers – by sitting

### June 2012

#### *Section A*

- 1 Consolidated statement of financial position with business combination achieved in stages and joint operation; de-recognition of financial asset; ethics

#### *Section B*

- 2 Sale and leaseback, defined benefit pension plan, cash-settled share-based payment and contingent liability in the context of a business combination
- 3 Measuring fair value, impairment of goodwill, deferred tax liabilities and the fair value option for an accounting mismatch; shares as financial liability or equity
- 4 Changing rules on provisions (discussion and calculation)

### December 2011

#### *Section A*

- 1 Consolidated statement of financial position with business combination achieved in stages; segment reporting; ethics

#### *Section B*

- 2 Internal reconstruction
- 3 Intangible assets and impairment testing rules
- 4 Revenue recognition: principles and application

## June 2011

### Section A

- 1 Groups with a foreign subsidiary, other adjustments and the remainder on ethical issues

### Section B

- 2 Specialised industry question with IFRS 1, IFRS 3 intangible assets and restructuring plans and provisions
- 3 Specialised industry question with reclassification of long-term debt, correction of an error, revenue recognition, related party disclosures and classification of a employee benefit plan
- 4 Change to IFRS 9 rules for financial assets; change to expected loss model for impairment of financial assets

## December 2010

### Section A

- 1 Consolidated statement of cash flows; ethics of changing method

### Section B

- 2 Share-based payment; derivatives
- 3 Provisions, contingent liability, significant influence; share-based payment
- 4 Small and medium-sized entities

## June 2010

### Section A

- 1 Groups with complex group and two disposals and the remainder on ethical issues

### Section B

- 2 A range of topics including deferred tax, impairments, a deemed disposal/discontinuation and retirement benefits
- 3 Specialised industry with derivatives, hedge accounting, brands and the purchase of retail outlets through companies
- 4 Flaws in lease accounting; application of *Framework*, sale and leaseback

## December 2009

### Section A

- 1 Consolidated statement of financial position with changes in group structure

### Section B

- 2 Impairment: discussion and calculation
- 3 Revenue recognition; recognition of assets; joint control
- 4 Complexity in financial instruments

## June 2009

### Section A

- 1 Business combination achieved in stages; ethics

### Section B

- 2 Financial instruments: fair value, convertible bonds, derecognition, foreign subsidiary's debt, interest on employee loan
- 3 Revenue recognition, assets
- 4 Employee benefits: problems of current treatments

## **December 2008**

### *Section A*

- 1 Group statement of cash flows with adjustments and interpretation; ethics

### *Section B*

- 2 Changes to accounting for business combinations
- 3 Tangibles, intangibles and revenue recognition
- 4 Accounting standards and disclosure

## **June 2008**

### *Section A*

- 1 Groups with a foreign subsidiary, other adjustments and the remainder on ethical issues

### *Section B*

- 2 Segment reporting and revenue recognition in a specialised industry
- 3 Retirement benefits and financial instruments
- 4 Transition to IFRS

## **December 2007**

### *Section A*

- 1 Piecemeal acquisition; factored receivables; environmental provision and report; ethical and social attitudes

### *Section B*

- 2 Employee benefits; provisions
- 3 Discontinued operations; deferred tax; impairment; lease
- 4 *Conceptual Framework*

## **Pilot paper**

### *Section A*

- 1 Statement of cash flows; criteria for consolidation; ethical behaviour

### *Section B*

- 2 Environmental provision; leasing; EARP; share-based payment
- 3 Deferred tax with pension scheme and financial instruments
- 4 Adoption of IFRS; proposals on business combinations

## Analysis of past papers – by syllabus topic

The table below provides details of when each element of the syllabus has been examined and the question number and section in which each element appeared. Further details can be found in the Exam Focus Points in the relevant chapters.

| Covered in Text chapter |   | Dec 2007     | June 2008          | Dec 2008                  | June 2009 | Dec 2009                        | June 2010                           | Dec 2010                               | June 2011 | Dec 2011                 | June 2012 |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|
|                         | <b>THE PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL DUTY OF THE ACCOUNTANT</b>  |              |                    |                           |           |                                 |                                     |  |           |                          |           |
| 3                       | Professional behaviour and compliance with accounting standards   |              | Q1(c)              | Q1(c)                     | Q1(c)     | Q1(c)                           |                                     | Q1(b)                                  | Q1(b)     | Q1(c)                    | Q1(c)     |
| 3                       | Ethical requirements of corporate reporting and the consequences of unethical behaviour   | Q1(c)        |                    | Q1(c)                     |           | Q1(c)                           | Q1(c)                               |  |           |                          |           |
| 3                       | Social responsibility   | Q1(c)        |                    |                           |           |                                 |                                     |  |           |                          |           |
|                         | <b>THE FINANCIAL REPORTING FRAMEWORK</b>  |              |                    |                           |           |                                 |                                     |  |           |                          |           |
| 1                       | The contribution and limitations of financial statements in meeting users' and capital markets' needs   |              |                    | Q4(c)                     |           |                                 |                                     |  |           |                          |           |
| 1                       | The applications, strengths and weaknesses of an accounting framework   |              |                    |                           |           |                                 |                                     |  |           |                          |           |
| 1                       | Critical evaluation of principles and practices<br>– Revenue recognition<br>– Substance over form issues  |              | Q2(b)              | Q3                        | Q3        | Q3                              | Q1 (a)                              |  | 3(b)      | Q4                       |           |
|                         | <b>REPORTING THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF ENTITIES</b>  |              |                    |                           |           |                                 |                                     |  |           |                          |           |
| 18                      | Performance reporting   |              |                    |                           |           |                                 |                                     |  |           |                          |           |
| 4                       | Non-current assets<br>– Property, plant and equipment<br>– Intangible assets<br>– Impairment<br>– Investment properties<br>– Government grants<br>– Borrowing costs   | Q1(a), Q3(c) | Q1(b)<br><br>Q2(b) | Q3<br>Q2, Q3<br>Q1(a), Q3 | Q3        | Q2, Q3<br>Q3<br>Q2, Q3<br>Q1(b) | Q1(a)<br>Q1(a)<br>Q1(a)<br>Q2<br>Q3 | Q1(a)<br>Q1(a), 3(c)<br>Q1(a)<br>Q1(a) | Q2(c)     | Q1(a)<br>Q3<br>Q1(a), Q3 |           |
| 7                       | Financial instruments   | Q1(a)        | Q1(b), Q3          | Q1(a), Q2                 | Q1, 2(a)  | Q1(b), Q3, Q4                   | Q1(a), (b) Q3                       | Q1(a), Q2, Q3                          | Q4        | Q1(a), Q3                | Q1(a), Q3 |
| 11                      | Leases  | Q1(a), Q3(d) |                    | Q3                        | Q3        |                                 | Q4                                  |  |           |                          | Q1, Q2    |
| 18                      | Segment reporting   |              | Q2(a)              |                           |           |                                 |                                     |  |           | Q1(b)                    |           |
| 5                       | Employee benefits   | Q2(a)        | Q1(b), Q3(b)       | Q1(a)                     | Q4        |                                 | Q2                                  | Q1(a)                                  | Q3(d)     | Q1(a)                    |           |
| 6                       | Income taxes  | Q3(b)        |                    |                           | Q1(a)     |                                 | Q2                                  | Q1(a)                                  |           |                          | Q3        |
| 9                       | Provisions, contingencies and events after the reporting period<br>– Provisions, contingency liabilities and contingent assets<br>– Events after the reporting period | Q1(a), Q2(b) | Q3                 | Q1(a), Q2                 |           | Q1, 2, 3<br>Q3                  | Q1(a)                               | Q3<br>Q3                               | Q2(d)     | Q2                       | Q4        |
| 10                      | Related parties   |              |                    |                           |           |                                 |                                     | Q3                                     | Q3(c)     |                          |           |
| 8                       | Share-based payment   | Q1(a)        | Q1(b)              | Q2                        |           |                                 |                                     | Q2, Q3                                 |           |                          | Q2        |
| 11                      | Leases  |              |                    |                           |           |                                 |                                     | Q4                                     |           |                          |           |

| Covered<br>in Text<br>chapter |  | Dec<br>2007 | June<br>2008           | Dec<br>2008           | June<br>2009                   | Dec<br>2009            | June<br>2010 | Dec<br>2010       | June<br>2011  | Dec<br>2011 | June<br>2012 |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
|                               | <b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF GROUPS OF ENTITIES</b>  |             |                        |                       |                                |                        |              |                   |               |             |              |
| 12, 13,<br>17                 | Group accounting including statements of cash flow<br>– Complex groups<br>– Associates<br>– Joint ventures<br>– Group statements of cash flows   |             | Q3(c)                  | Q1(a),<br>Q2<br>Q1(a) | Q1(a)                          | Q1(b)<br>Q3            | Q1(a)        | Q1(a)<br>Q3<br>Q1 |               |             | Q1(a)        |
| 13                            | Continuing and discontinued interests<br>– Discontinued operations<br>– Non-current assets held for sale   | Q3(a)       |                        |                       |                                | Q2                     | Q2           |                   |               |             |              |
| 14                            | Changes in group structure<br>– Mid year acquisitions<br>– Disposals<br>– Business combinations achieved in stages                               | Q1(a)       |                        | Q2<br>Q2              | Q1(a),<br>(b)<br>Q1(a),<br>(b) | Q1(a),<br>(b)<br>Q1(b) | Q1(a),<br>Q2 | Q1(a)             |               | Q1(a)       | Q1(a)        |
|                               | – Group reorganisations  |             |                        |                       |                                |                        |              |                   |               | Q2          |              |
| 16                            | Foreign transactions and entities<br>– Foreign currency transactions<br>– Foreign subsidiaries   | Q1(a)       | Q1(b)<br>Q1(a),<br>(b) | Q1(a)                 | Q1(a),<br>Q2                   | Q1(b)                  |              |                   | Q1(a)         |             |              |
|                               | <b>SPECIALISED ENTITIES</b>  |             |                        |                       |                                |                        |              |                   |               |             |              |
| 20                            | Financial reporting in specialised, not-for-profit and public sector entities  |             | Q2                     | Q3                    | Q3                             | Q3                     | Q3           | Q3                | Q2, Q3        |             |              |
|                               | <b>IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING REGULATION ON FINANCIAL REPORTING</b>   |             |                        |                       |                                |                        |              |                   |               |             |              |
| 21                            | The effect of changes in accounting standards on accounting systems  |             | Q4(a)                  |                       |                                |                        |              |                   |               |             |              |
| 12                            | Proposed changes to accounting standards   |             |                        |                       |                                |                        |              |                   | Q2(a),<br>(b) |             |              |
|                               | <b>THE APPRAISAL OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND POSITION ENTITIES</b>  |             |                        |                       |                                |                        |              |                   |               |             |              |
| 18                            | The creation of suitable accounting policies   |             | Q2(b),<br>Q3           |                       |                                |                        |              |                   |               |             |              |
| 18                            | Analysis and interpretation of financial information and measurement of performance  |             |                        | Q1(b)                 |                                |                        |              |                   |               |             |              |
|                               | <b>CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS</b>  |             |                        |                       |                                |                        |              |                   |               |             |              |
| 3, 19                         | Environmental and social reporting   | Q1(b)       |                        |                       |                                |                        |              |                   |               |             |              |
| 19                            | Convergence between national and international reporting standards   |             | Q4(a)                  |                       |                                |                        |              |                   |               |             |              |
| 19                            | Comparison of national reporting requirements  |             | Q4(b)                  |                       |                                |                        |              |                   |               |             |              |
| 1, 6, 19                      | Current reporting issues<br>– Conceptual Framework<br>– Fair value measurement<br>– Management commentary<br>– Pensions<br>– Revenue recognition | Q4          |                        |                       |                                |                        |              |                   |               | Q1(a)<br>Q4 |              |



# Regulatory and ethical framework



# Financial reporting framework

| Topic list  | Syllabus reference |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) | A1                 |
| 2 Corporate governance                                | C1                 |
| 3 Conceptual framework                                | B2                 |
| 4 Revenue recognition                                 | A2, B1             |

## Introduction

Welcome to the Corporate Reporting paper using International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). This paper is about thinking and applying your knowledge of the IFRS. Most of the standards and topics have been covered in your earlier studies. However, at the Professional level, you need to think critically about them and show an understanding of topical issues. In the exam, you will need to put yourself in the role of an adviser to a business entity, using your knowledge to give practical advice.

In the exam, you will often be required to consider the impact of proposed changes to IFRS. Any such proposals are dealt with in this Study Text within the topic to which they relate.

## Study guide

|           |  | Intellectual level |
|-----------|--|--------------------|
| <b>A1</b> | <b>Professional behaviour and compliance with accounting standards</b>   |                    |
| (a)       | Appraise the ethical and professional issues in advising on corporate reporting  | 3                  |
| (b)       | Assess the relevance and importance of ethical and professional issues in complying with accounting standards                | 3                  |
| <b>A2</b> | <b>Ethical requirements of corporate reporting and the consequences of unethical behaviour</b>                               |                    |
| (a)       | Appraise the potential ethical implications of professional and managerial decisions in the preparation of corporate reports | 3                  |
| <b>B1</b> | <b>The applications, strengths and weaknesses of an accounting framework</b>   |                    |
| (a)       | Evaluate the valuation models adopted by standard setters  |                    |
| <b>C1</b> | <b>Performance reporting</b>   |                    |
| (a)       | Prepare reports relating to corporate performance for external stakeholders  | 3                  |
| <b>B2</b> | <b>The applications, strength and weaknesses of an accounting framework</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Evaluate the valuation models adopted by standard setters  | 3                  |
| (b)       | Discuss the use of an accounting framework in underpinning the production of accounting standards                            | 3                  |
| (c)       | Assess the success of such a framework in introducing rigorous and consistent accounting standards                           | 3                  |

## Exam guide

This chapter is partly background knowledge to set the scene about the reporting framework before you look at ethical issues. It also discusses the Management Commentary and the *Conceptual Framework*.

The examiner has stated that revenue recognition is important.

## 1 International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs)



One of the competences you need to fulfil Objective 10 of the Practical Experience Requirement (PER) is to recognise and apply the external legal and professional framework and regulations to financial reporting. You can apply the knowledge you obtain from this section of the Text to demonstrate this competence.

To date the IASB has the following standards in issue.

### 1.1 Current accounting standards and documents examinable at P2

The documents listed as being examinable are the latest that were issued before 30 September 2012, and will be examinable in sittings up to June 2014. **This Study Text is for exams up to and including June 2014.**

[For sittings beyond June 2014, the exam year will run from 1 September to the following 31 August. The cut off relating to examinable documents will be set 12 months prior to the start of the year. The first exam year that will use this new cycle is the 12 months that commences 1 September 2014, in other words the December 2014 exams onwards.]

The study guide offers more detail guidance on the depth and level at which the examinable documents will be examined. The study guide should be read in conjunction with the examinable documents list.

|         | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Date issued</b>               |
|---------|--|----------------------------------|
|         | <b>International Accounting Standards (IASs) / International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs)</b> |                                  |
| IAS 1   | Presentation of financial statements   | Dec 03, rev. Sept 07 and June 11 |
| IAS 2   | Inventories  | Dec 03                           |
| IAS 7   | Statement of cash flows  | Dec 92                           |
| IAS 8   | Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors  | Dec 03                           |
| IAS 10  | Events after the reporting period  | Dec 03                           |
| IAS 12  | Income taxes   | Nov 00                           |
| IAS 16  | Property, plant and equipment  | Dec 03                           |
| IAS 17  | Leases   | Dec 03                           |
| IAS 18  | Revenue  | Dec 93                           |
| IAS 19  | Employee benefits  | Nov 00, revised 2011             |
| IAS 20  | Accounting for government grants and disclosure of government assistance                               | Jan 95                           |
| IAS 21  | The effects of changes in foreign exchange rates   | Dec 03                           |
| IAS 23  | Borrowing costs  | Dec 93                           |
| IAS 24  | Related party disclosures  | Dec 03                           |
| IAS 27  | Separate financial statements  | Dec 03, revised 2011             |
| IAS 28  | Investments in associates and joint ventures   | Dec 03, revised 2011             |
| IAS 32  | Financial Instruments: presentation  | Dec 03                           |
| IAS 33  | Earnings per share   | Dec 03                           |
| IAS 34  | Interim financial reporting  | Feb 98                           |
| IAS 36  | Impairment of assets   | June 98                          |
| IAS 37  | Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets   | Sept 98                          |
| IAS 38  | Intangible assets  | Sept 98                          |
| IAS 39  | Financial Instruments: recognition and measurement   | Dec 03                           |
| IAS 40  | Investment property  | Dec 03                           |
| IFRS 1  | First-time adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards                                     | June 03                          |
| IFRS 2  | Share-based payment  | Feb 04                           |
| IFRS 3  | Business combinations  | Mar 04, revised Jan 08           |
| IFRS 5  | Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations   | Mar 04                           |
| IFRS 7  | Financial instruments: disclosures   | Aug 05                           |
| IFRS 8  | Operating segments   | Nov 06                           |
| IFRS 9  | Financial instruments  | Nov 09                           |
| IFRS 10 | Consolidated financial statements  | May 11                           |

|               | Title   | Date issued |
|---------------|---|-------------|
| IFRS 11       | Joint arrangements  | May 11      |
| IFRS 12       | Disclosure of interests in other entities   | May 11      |
| IFRS 13       | Fair value measurement  | May 11      |
| IFRS          | For Small and Medium-sized Entities   | July 09     |
|               | <b>Other Statements</b>   |             |
|               | Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting (Chapters 1, 3 and 4)                      |             |
|               | Practice Statement: Management Commentary   |             |
|               | <b>EDs, Discussion Papers and Other Documents</b>                                       |             |
| ED            | An improved conceptual framework for financial reporting. Chapter 2                     |             |
| ED            | Financial instruments: amortised cost and impairment (including expected loss approach) |             |
| ED            | Measurement of liabilities in IAS 37  |             |
| ED            | Revenue from contracts with customers   |             |
| ED            | Leases  |             |
| ED/Draft IFRS | Hedge accounting  |             |
| ED            | Offsetting financial assets and liabilities   |             |
| ED            | Improvements to IFRSs   |             |
| ED            | Improvements to IFRSs   |             |
| ED            | Investment entities   |             |

**Note.** The accounting of financial assets and financial liabilities is accounted for in accordance with IFRS 9 to the extent that this standard was in issue as at 30 September 2011. For any elements of the study guide deemed as examinable and not covered by IFRS 9, these elements should be dealt with by studying IAS 39.

## 2 Corporate governance

### FAST FORWARD

**Corporate governance** has been important in recent years and in the current syllabus it is important in the context of ethical behaviour.

One of the major business debates recently is about corporate governance, particularly in the UK and the USA.

### Key term

**Corporate governance** is the system by which companies are directed and controlled. (*Cadbury Report*)

The trigger for this debate was the **collapse** of major international companies during the 1980s, including Maxwell, BCCI and Polly Peck. These collapses were often unexpected, and dubious (or even fraudulent) activities were sometimes attributed to their owners and managers. These events represented a nasty shock for countries, such as the UK and the USA, that felt they had well-regulated markets and strong company legislation. It became obvious, however, that part of the problem was the way in which regulation was spread between **different national authorities** for these global conglomerates, so that no one national authority had the whole picture of the affairs of such companies, nor full powers over the whole of the business.

Individual countries began to develop **better guidelines** for corporate governance, and efforts have been made to produce an international standard on corporate governance.

Corporate governance is covered in other papers, so is not examinable in P2. This is for background information only.

## 3 Conceptual framework

12/07

**FAST FORWARD**

The 1989 *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements* was replaced in 2010 by the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*. This is the result of a joint project with the FASB.

### 3.1 The search for a conceptual framework

**Key term**

A **conceptual framework**, in the field we are concerned with, is a statement of generally accepted theoretical principles which form the frame of reference for financial reporting. These theoretical principles provide the basis for the development of new accounting standards and the evaluation of those already in existence.

The financial reporting process is concerned with providing information that is useful in the business and economic decision-making process. Therefore a conceptual framework will form the theoretical basis for determining which events should be accounted for, how they should be measured and how they should be communicated to the user.

Although it is theoretical in nature, a conceptual framework for financial reporting has highly practical final aims.

The **danger of not having a conceptual framework** is demonstrated in the way some countries' standards have developed over recent years; standards tend to be produced in a **haphazard and fire-fighting approach**. Where an agreed framework exists, the standard-setting body acts as an architect or designer, rather than a fire-fighter, building accounting rules on the foundation of sound, agreed basic principles.

The lack of a conceptual framework also means that fundamental principles are tackled more than once in different standards, thereby producing contradictions and inconsistencies in basic concepts, such as those of prudence and matching. This leads to ambiguity and it affects the true and fair concept of financial reporting.

Another problem with the lack of a conceptual framework has become apparent in the USA. The large number of highly detailed standards produced by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) has created a financial reporting environment governed by specific rules rather than general principles. This would be avoided if a cohesive set of principles were in place.

A conceptual framework can also bolster standard setters against political pressure from various 'lobby groups' and interested parties. Such pressure would only prevail if it was acceptable under the conceptual framework.

### 3.2 Advantages of a conceptual framework

The **advantages** arising from using a conceptual framework may be summarised as follows.

- (a) The situation is **avoided** whereby standards are being developed on a **piecemeal** basis, where a particular accounting problem is recognised as having emerged, and resources were then channelled into standardising accounting practice in that area, without regard to whether that particular issue was necessarily the most important issue remaining at that time without standardisation.
- (b) As stated above, the development of certain standards (particularly national standards) have been subject to considerable political interference from interested parties. Where there is a conflict of interest between user groups on which policies to choose, policies deriving from a conceptual framework will be **less open** to criticism that the standard-setter buckled to **external pressure**.

- (c) Some standards may concentrate on the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income (formerly statement of comprehensive income, see [Chapter 18](#) for the details of the change of name) whereas some may concentrate on the valuation of net assets (statement of financial position).

### 3.3 Counter-argument

A counter-argument might be as follows.

- (a) Financial statements are intended for a variety of users, and it is not certain that a single conceptual framework can be devised which will suit all users.
- (b) Given the diversity of user requirements, there may be a need for a variety of accounting standards, each produced for a different purpose (and with different concepts as a basis).
- (c) It is not clear that a conceptual framework makes the task of preparing and then implementing standards any easier than without a framework.

Before we look at the IASB's attempt to produce a conceptual framework, we need to consider another term of importance to this debate: generally accepted accounting practice; or GAAP.

### 3.4 Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)

This term has sprung up in recent years and it signifies all the rules, from whatever source, which govern accounting. In individual countries this is seen primarily as a combination of:

- National corporate law
- National accounting standards
- Local stock exchange requirements

Although those sources are the basis for the GAAP of individual countries, the concept also includes the effects of non-mandatory sources such as:

- International financial reporting standards
- Statutory requirements in other countries

In many countries, like the UK, GAAP does not have any statutory or regulatory authority or definition, unlike other countries, such as the USA. The term is mentioned rarely in legislation, and only then in fairly limited terms.

### 3.5 GAAP and a conceptual framework

A conceptual framework for financial reporting can be defined as an attempt to codify existing GAAP in order to reappraise current accounting standards and to produce new standards.

### 3.6 The IASB Conceptual Framework

The IASB *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements* was produced in 1989 and is gradually being replaced by the new *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*. This is the result of an IASB/FASB joint project and is being carried out in phases. The first phase, comprising [Chapters 1](#) and [3](#), was published in September 2010. [Chapter 2](#) entitled 'The reporting entity' has not yet been published. The current version of the *Conceptual Framework* includes the remaining chapters of the 1989 Framework as [Chapter 4](#).

The *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting* is currently as follows:

Chapter 1: The objective of general purpose financial reporting

Chapter 2: The reporting entity (to be issued)

Chapter 3: Qualitative characteristics of useful financial information

Chapter 4: Remaining text of the 1989 *Framework*.



- Underlying assumption
- The elements of financial statements
- Recognition of the elements of financial statements
- Measurement of the elements of financial statements
- Concepts of capital and capital maintenance

You have studied the 1989 *Framework* in your earlier studies. We will now look at some of these sections in more detail.

### 3.7 Introduction to the *Conceptual Framework*

The Introduction provides a list of the purposes of the *Conceptual Framework*:

- To assist the Board in the **development of future IFRSs** and in its review of existing IFRSs.
- To assist the Board in **promoting harmonisation** of regulations, accounting standards and procedures relating to the presentation of financial statements by providing a basis for reducing the number of alternative accounting treatments permitted by IFRSs.
- To assist **national standard-setting bodies** in developing national standards.
- To assist **preparers of financial statements** in applying IFRSs and in dealing with topics that have yet to form the subject of an IFRS.
- To assist **auditors** in forming an opinion as to whether financial statements comply with IFRSs.
- To assist **users of financial statements** in interpreting the information contained in financial statements prepared in compliance with IFRSs.
- To provide those who are interested in the work of the IASB with **information** about its approach to the formulation of IFRSs.

The *Conceptual Framework* is not an IFRS and so does not overrule any individual IFRS. In the (rare) case of conflict between an IFRS and the *Conceptual Framework*, the **IFRS will prevail**.

### 3.8 Chapter 1: The Objective of General Purpose Financial Reporting

The *Conceptual Framework* states that;

‘The objective of general purpose financial reporting is to provide information about the reporting entity that is useful to existing and potential investors, lenders and other creditors in making decisions about providing resources to the entity.’

These users need information about:

- the **economic resources of the entity**;
- the **claims against the entity**; and
- changes in the entity’s **economic resources and claims**

Information about the entity’s **economic resources and the claims against it** helps users to assess the entity’s liquidity and solvency and its likely needs for additional financing.

Information about a reporting entity’s financial performance (the **changes in its economic resources and claims**) helps users to understand the return that the entity has produced on its economic resources. This is an indicator of how efficiently and effectively management has used the resources of the entity and is helpful in predicting future returns.

The *Conceptual Framework* makes it clear that this information should be prepared on an **accruals basis**.

Information about a reporting entity’s cash flows during a period also helps users assess the entity’s ability to generate future net cash inflows and gives users a better understanding of its operations.

### 3.9 Chapter 3: Qualitative characteristics of useful financial information

Qualitative characteristics are attributes that make financial information useful to users.

Chapter 3 distinguishes between **fundamental** and **enhancing** qualitative characteristics, for analysis purposes. Fundamental qualitative characteristics distinguish useful financial reporting information from information that is not useful or misleading. Enhancing qualitative characteristics distinguish more useful information from less useful information.

The two fundamental qualitative characteristics are:

- (a) **Relevance:** relevant information has predictive value or confirmatory value, or both. It is capable of making a difference in the decisions made by users.

The relevance of information is affected by its **nature** and its **materiality**.

- (b) **Faithful representation:** information must be **complete**, **neutral** and **free from error** (replacing 'reliability').

Financial reports represent **economic phenomena** in words and numbers. To be useful, financial information must not only represent relevant phenomena but must **faithfully represent** the phenomena that it purports to represent.

A **complete** depiction includes all information necessary for a user to understand the phenomenon being depicted, including all necessary descriptions and explanations.

A **neutral** depiction is without bias in the selection or presentation of financial information. This means that information must not be manipulated in any way in order to influence the decisions of users.

**Free from error** means there are no errors or omissions in the description of the phenomenon and no errors made in the process by which the financial information was produced. It does not mean that no inaccuracies can arise, particularly where estimates have to be made.

#### Substance over form

This is **not a separate qualitative characteristic** under the *Conceptual Framework*. The IASB says that to do so would be redundant because it is **implied in faithful representation**. Faithful representation of a transaction is only possible if it is accounted for according to its **substance and economic reality**.

### 3.9.1 Enhancing qualitative characteristics

#### Comparability

**Comparability** is the qualitative characteristic that enables users to identify and understand similarities in, and differences among, items. Information about a reporting entity is more useful if it can be compared with similar information about other entities and with similar information about the same entity for another period or another date.

**Consistency**, although related to comparability, **is not the same**. It refers to the use of the same methods for the same items (ie consistency of treatment) either from period to period within a reporting entity or in a single period across entities.

The **disclosure of accounting policies** is particularly important here. Users must be able to distinguish between different accounting policies in order to be able to make a valid comparison of similar items in the accounts of different entities.

Comparability is **not the same as uniformity**. Entities should change accounting policies if those policies become inappropriate.

**Corresponding information** for preceding periods should be shown to enable comparison over time.

#### Verifiability

**Verifiability** helps assure users that information faithfully represents the economic phenomena it purports to represent. It means that different knowledgeable and independent observers could reach consensus that a particular depiction is a faithful representation.

## Timeliness

Information may become less useful if there is a delay in reporting it. There is a **balance between timeliness and the provision of reliable information**.

If information is reported on a timely basis when not all aspects of the transaction are known, it may not be complete or free from error.

Conversely, if every detail of a transaction is known, it may be too late to publish the information because it has become irrelevant. The overriding consideration is how best to satisfy the economic decision-making needs of the users.

## Understandability

Financial reports are prepared for users who have a **reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities** and who review and analyse the information diligently. Some phenomena are inherently complex and cannot be made easy to understand. Excluding information on those phenomena might make the information easier to understand, but without it those reports would be incomplete and therefore misleading. Therefore matters should not be left out of financial statements simply due to their difficulty as even well-informed and diligent users may sometimes need the aid of an adviser to understand information about complex economic phenomena.

## The cost constraint on useful financial reporting

This is a pervasive constraint, not a qualitative characteristic. When information is provided, its benefits must exceed the costs of obtaining and presenting it. This is a **subjective area** and there are other difficulties: others, not the intended users, may gain a benefit; also the cost may be paid by someone other than the users. It is therefore difficult to apply a cost-benefit analysis, but preparers and users should be aware of the constraint.

### 3.9.2 Underlying assumption

The 1989 *Framework* identified two underlying assumptions – **accruals** and **going concern**.

The *Conceptual Framework* makes it clear that financial information should be prepared on an accruals basis but only identifies one underlying assumption – **going concern**.

## 3.10 Exposure Draft: Chapter 2: The Reporting Entity

This ED was issued in March 2010. It presents the IASB's consideration of issues in the development of a reporting entity concept for inclusion in the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*. There are four sections.

### 3.10.1 The reporting entity concept

This deals with general issues relating to the reporting entity concept. For example, it considers whether a precise definition of a reporting entity is necessary and whether a reporting entity must be a legal entity.

The Board's conclusion at this stage is that the conceptual framework should broadly describe rather than precisely define a reporting entity **as a circumscribed area of business activity of interest to present and potential equity investors, lenders and other creditors who cannot directly obtain the information they need** in making decisions about providing resources to the entity and in assessing whether management and the governing board of the entity have made efficient and effective use of the resources provided.

Examples of reporting entities include a sole trader, corporation, trust, partnership, association and group.

### 3.10.2 When does an entity control another entity?

Consolidated financial statements are presented **when control exists**. Control exists where an entity has the power to direct the activities of another entity to generate benefits or limit losses to itself.

If control is shared, no consolidated financial statements need be presented.

### 3.10.3 Portion of an entity

A portion of an entity could qualify as a reporting entity if the economic activities of that portion can be distinguished objectively from the rest of the entity and financial information about that portion of the entity has the potential to be useful in making decisions about providing resources to that portion of the entity.

### 3.10.4 Financial statements other than consolidated financial statements

This section considers two issues:

- (a) **Parent-only financial statements**
- (b) **Combined financial statements.** These would include information about two or more commonly controlled entities.

The IASB's preliminary conclusion is that (a) **parent-only financial statements may be presented** provided they are included in the same financial report as consolidated financial statements and (b) **combined financial statements** might provide useful information about **commonly controlled entities** as a group.

## 3.11 Potential problems

The UK's Accounting Standards Board (ASB) has highlighted a number of potential objections that may be made to the proposals.

- (a) **Users.** The ASB is concerned about the proposal that the objective of financial reporting should focus only on decision-usefulness, with stewardship being subsumed within this rather than being referred to as a specific part of the objective, or a separate objective. The ASB believes that stewardship should be a separate objective. The ASB is also concerned that the shareholder user perspective is being downplayed.
- (b) **Qualitative characteristics: what happens to reliability?** The DP proposes replacing the qualitative characteristic of 'reliability' in the current *Framework* with 'faithful representation'. The ASB believes that faithful representation is a softer notion which, when combined with a lack of specific identification of substance over form as a principle, could lead to a number of problems.
- (c) **Financial reporting or financial statements.** The ASB believes the boundary between financial statements and financial reporting has not been properly considered.
- (d) **Limited in scope.** The Discussion Paper is limited to private enterprises, rather than, as the ASB believes it should be, encompassing the not-for profit sector.
- (e) **Too theoretical.** This may alienate preparers and auditors of accounts.
- (f) **Too piecemeal.** This is likely to lead to internal inconsistency.
- (g) The **entity perspective is adopted without an in-depth comparison** with other possible perspectives (such as the proprietary perspective, the parent shareholder perspective and other hybrid models).
- (h) The differentiation between fundamental and enhancing qualitative characteristics is **artificial**.
- (i) The qualitative characteristic of **'verifiability'** is problematic.
- (j) In the proposed 'Reporting Entity' chapter, the **entity perspective and the definitions of control have been insufficiently thought through**. In addition, the 'risks and rewards' model is not adopted, thereby losing a useful concept.

## 3.12 Recent developments

So far the other parts of the *Framework* are still at the **discussion stage**. Below is a **summary of progress** at the time of writing (October 2012):

- (a) **Objectives and qualitative characteristics** – see above.
- (b) **Elements and recognition.** The Board has tentatively agreed that the focus of the definition of an asset should be on a present economic resource rather than on future economic benefits and an assessment of likelihood should be removed from the definition of an asset. The definition should focus on the present rather than on past transactions or events. No definition of a liability has been agreed.
- (c) **Measurement.** Various measurement bases have been discussed. They are divided into past present and future. Past bases are:
  - (i) Past entry price
  - (ii) Modified past entry amount
  - (iii) Past exit price
 Present bases are:
  - (i) Current entry price
  - (ii) Current exit price
  - (iii) Current equilibrium price
  - (iv) Value in use
 Future bases are:
  - (i) Future entry price
  - (ii) Future exit price
- (d) **Reporting entity** – see above
- (e) **Purpose and status** – discussions pending
- (f) **Application to not for profit entities** – discussions pending
- (g) **Remaining issues** – discussions pending

**Exam focus point**

The examiner has flagged this topic as important. Keep an eye on future developments by reading *Student Accountant* and [www.iasplus.com/agenda/framework.htm](http://www.iasplus.com/agenda/framework.htm)

## 4 Revenue recognition

6/08, 12/08, 6/11, 12/11

**FAST FORWARD**

**Revenue recognition** is straightforward in most business transactions, but some situations are more complicated.

### 4.1 Introduction

Accruals accounting is based on the **matching of costs with the revenue they generate**. It is crucially important under this convention that we can establish the point at which revenue may be recognised so that the correct treatment can be applied to the related costs. For example, the costs of producing an item of finished goods should be carried as an asset in the statement of financial position until such time as it is sold; they should then be written off as a charge to the trading account. Which of these two treatments should be applied cannot be decided until it is clear at what moment the sale of the item takes place.

The decision has a **direct impact on profit** since under the prudence concept it would be unacceptable to recognise the profit on sale until a sale had taken place in accordance with the criteria of revenue recognition.

Revenue is generally recognised as **earned at the point of sale**, because at that point four criteria will generally have been met.

- The product or service has been **provided to the buyer**.
- The buyer has **recognised his liability** to pay for the goods or services provided. The converse of this is that the seller has recognised that ownership of goods has passed from himself to the buyer.
- The buyer has indicated his **willingness to hand over cash** or other assets in settlement of his liability.
- The **monetary value** of the goods or services has been established.

At earlier points in the business cycle there will not, in general, be **firm evidence** that the above criteria will be met. Until work on a product is complete, there is a risk that some flaw in the manufacturing process will necessitate its writing off; even when the product is complete there is no guarantee that it will find a buyer.

At later points in the business cycle, for example when cash is received for the sale, the recognition of revenue may occur in a period later than that in which the related costs were charged. Revenue recognition would then depend on fortuitous circumstances, such as the cash flow of a company's customers, and might fluctuate misleadingly from one period to another.

However, there are times when revenue is **recognised at other times than at the completion of a sale**. For example, in the recognition of profit on long-term construction contracts. Under IAS 11 *Construction contracts* contract revenue and contract costs associated with the construction contract should be recognised as revenue and expenses respectively by reference to the stage of completion of the contract activity at the year end.

- Owing to the length of time taken to complete such contracts, to defer taking profit into account until completion may result in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income reflecting, not so much a fair view of the activity of the company during the year, but rather the results relating to contracts which have been completed by the year end.
- Revenue in this case is recognised when production on, say, a section of the total contract is complete, even though no sale can be made until the whole is complete.

## 4.2 IAS 18 Revenue

### FAST FORWARD

IAS 18 *Revenue* is concerned with the **recognition of revenues** arising from fairly common transactions.

- The sale of goods
- The rendering of services
- The use by others of enterprise assets yielding interest, royalties and dividends

Generally revenue is recognised when the entity has transferred to the buyer the **significant risks and rewards of ownership** and when the revenue can be **measured reliably**.

IAS 18 governs the recognition of revenue in specific (common) types of transaction. Generally, recognition should be when it is probable that **future economic benefits** will flow to the enterprise and when these benefits can be **measured reliably**.

Income, as defined by the IASB's *Framework* document (see above), includes both revenues and gains. Revenue is income arising in the ordinary course of an enterprise's activities and it may be called different names, such as sales, fees, interest, dividends or royalties.

## 4.3 Scope

IAS 18 covers the revenue from specific types of transaction or events.

- **Sale of goods** (manufactured products and items purchased for resale)
- **Rendering of services**
- Use by others of enterprise assets yielding **interest, royalties and dividends**

Interest, royalties and dividends are included as income because they arise from the use of an entity's assets by other parties.

## Key terms

**Interest** is the charge for the use of cash or cash equivalents or amounts due to the entity.

**Royalties** are charges for the use of non-current assets of the entity, eg patents, computer software and trademarks.

**Dividends** are distributions of profit to holders of equity investments, in proportion with their holdings, of each relevant class of capital.

The standard specifically **excludes** various types of revenue arising from leases, insurance contracts, changes in value of financial instruments or other current assets, natural increases in agricultural assets and mineral ore extraction.

## 4.4 Definitions

The following definitions are given in the standard.

## Key terms

**Revenue** is the gross inflow of economic benefits during the period arising in the course of the ordinary activities of an enterprise when those inflows result in increases in equity, other than increases relating to contributions from equity participants. *(IAS 18)*

**Fair value** is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability, in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. *(IFRS 13)*

Revenue **does not include** sales taxes, value added taxes or goods and service taxes which are only collected for third parties, because these do not represent an economic benefit flowing to the entity. The same is true for revenues collected by an agent on behalf of a principal. Revenue for the agent is only the commission received for acting as agent.

## 4.5 Measurement of revenue

When a transaction takes place, the amount of revenue is usually decided by the **agreement of the buyer and seller**. The revenue is actually measured, however, as the **fair value of the consideration received**, which will take account of any trade discounts and volume rebates.

## 4.6 Identification of the transaction

Normally, each transaction can be looked at **as a whole**. Sometimes, however, transactions are more complicated, and it is necessary to break a transaction down into its **component parts**. For example, a sale may include the transfer of goods and the provision of future servicing, the revenue for which should be deferred over the period the service is performed.

At the other end of the scale, **seemingly separate transactions must be considered together** if apart they lose their commercial meaning. An example would be to sell an asset with an agreement to buy it back at a later date. The second transaction cancels the first and so both must be considered together.

## 4.7 Sale of goods

Revenue from the sale of goods should only be recognised when *all* these conditions are satisfied.

- (a) The entity has transferred the **significant risks and rewards** of ownership of the goods to the buyer
- (b) The entity has **no continuing managerial involvement** to the degree usually associated with ownership, and no longer has effective control over the goods sold
- (c) The amount of revenue can be **measured reliably**
- (d) It is probable that the **economic benefits** associated with the transaction will flow to the enterprise
- (e) The **costs incurred** in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably

The transfer of risks and rewards can only be decided by examining each transaction. Mainly, the transfer occurs at the same time as either the **transfer of legal title**, or the **passing of possession** to the buyer – this is what happens when you buy something in a shop.

If **significant risks and rewards remain with the seller**, then the transaction is *not* a sale and revenue cannot be recognised, for example if the receipt of the revenue from a particular sale depends on the buyer receiving revenue from his own sale of the goods.

It is possible for the seller to retain only an '**insignificant' risk of ownership** and for the sale and revenue to be recognised. The main example here is where the seller retains title only to ensure collection of what is owed on the goods. This is a common commercial situation, and when it arises the revenue should be recognised on the date of sale.

The probability of the enterprise receiving the revenue arising from a transaction must be assessed. It may only become probable that the economic benefits will be received when an uncertainty is removed, for example government permission for funds to be received from another country. Only when the uncertainty is removed should the revenue be recognised. This is in contrast with the situation where revenue has already been recognised but where the **collectability of the cash** is brought into doubt. Where recovery has ceased to be probable, the amount should be recognised as an expense, *not* an adjustment of the revenue previously recognised. These points also refer to services and interest, royalties and dividends below.

**Matching** should take place, ie the revenue and expenses relating to the same transaction should be recognised at the same time. It is usually easy to estimate expenses at the date of sale (eg warranty costs, shipment costs, etc). Where they cannot be estimated reliably, then revenue cannot be recognised; any consideration which has already been received is treated as a liability.

## 4.8 Rendering of services

When the outcome of a transaction involving the rendering of services can be estimated reliably, the associated revenue should be recognised by reference to the **stage of completion of the transaction** at the year end. The outcome of a transaction can be estimated reliably when *all* these conditions are satisfied.

- (a) The amount of revenue can be **measured reliably**
- (b) It is probable that the **economic benefits** associated with the transaction will flow to the enterprise
- (c) The **stage of completion** of the transaction at the year end can be measured reliably
- (d) The **costs incurred** for the transaction and the costs to complete the transaction can be measured reliably

The parties to the transaction will normally have to agree the following before an enterprise can make reliable estimates.

- (a) Each party's **enforceable rights** regarding the service to be provided and received by the parties
- (b) The **consideration** to be exchanged
- (c) The **manner and terms of settlement**

There are various methods of determining the stage of completion of a transaction, but for practical purposes, when services are performed by an indeterminate number of acts over a period of time, revenue should be recognised on a **straight line basis** over the period, unless there is evidence for the use of a more appropriate method. If one act is of more significance than the others, then the significant act should be carried out *before* revenue is recognised.

In uncertain situations, when the outcome of the transaction involving the rendering of services cannot be estimated reliably, the standard recommends a **no loss/no gain approach**. Revenue is recognised only to the extent of the expenses recognised that are recoverable.

This is particularly likely during the **early stages of a transaction**, but it is still probable that the enterprise will recover the costs incurred. So the revenue recognised in such a period will be equal to the expenses incurred, with no profit.



Obviously, if the costs are not likely to be reimbursed, then they must be recognised as an expense immediately. **When the uncertainties cease to exist**, revenue should be recognised as laid out in the first paragraph of this section.

## 4.9 Interest, royalties and dividends

When others use the enterprise's assets yielding interest, royalties and dividends, the revenue should be recognised on the bases set out below when:

- (a) it is probable that the **economic benefits** associated with the transaction will flow to the enterprise; and
- (b) the amount of the revenue can be **measured reliably**.

The revenue is recognised on the following bases.

- (a) **Interest** is recognised on a time proportion basis that takes into account the effective yield on the asset
- (b) **Royalties** are recognised on an accruals basis in accordance with the substance of the relevant agreement
- (c) **Dividends** are recognised when the shareholder's right to receive payment is established

It is unlikely that you would be asked about anything as complex as this in the exam, but you should be aware of the basic requirements of the standard. The **effective yield** on an asset mentioned above is the rate of interest required to discount the stream of future cash receipts expected over the life of the asset to equate to the initial carrying amount of the asset.

Royalties are usually recognised on the same basis that they accrue **under the relevant agreement**. Sometimes the true substance of the agreement may require some other systematic and rational method of recognition.

Once again, the points made above about **probability and collectability** on sale of goods also apply here.

## 4.10 Disclosure

The following items should be disclosed.

- (a) The **accounting policies** adopted for the recognition of revenue, including the methods used to determine the stage of completion of transactions involving the rendering of services
- (b) The amount of each **significant category of revenue** recognised during the period including revenue arising from:
  - (i) The sale of goods
  - (ii) The rendering of services
  - (iii) Interest
  - (iv) Royalties
  - (v) Dividends
- (c) The amount of revenue arising from **exchanges of goods or services** included in each significant category of revenue

Any **contingent gains or losses**, such as those relating to warranty costs, claims or penalties should be treated according to IAS 37 *Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets* (covered in your earlier studies).

## 4.11 Question practice

### Exam focus point

The examiner has recently emphasised that revenue recognition is an important topic, so have a go at the questions below.



## Question

## Recognition

Given that prudence is the main consideration, discuss under what circumstances, if any, revenue might be recognised at the following stages of a sale.

- (a) Goods are acquired by the business which it confidently expects to resell very quickly.
- (b) A customer places a firm order for goods.
- (c) Goods are delivered to the customer.
- (d) The customer is invoiced for goods.
- (e) The customer pays for the goods.
- (f) The customer's cheque in payment for the goods has been cleared by the bank.

## Answer

- (a) A sale must never be recognised before the goods have even been ordered by a customer. There is no certainty about the value of the sale, nor when it will take place, even if it is virtually certain that goods will be sold.
- (b) A sale must never be recognised when the customer places an order. Even though the order will be for a specific quantity of goods at a specific price, it is not yet certain that the sale transaction will go through. The customer may cancel the order, the supplier might be unable to deliver the goods as ordered or it may be decided that the customer is not a good credit risk.
- (c) A sale will be recognised when delivery of the goods is made only when:
  - (i) the sale is for cash, and so the cash is received at the same time; or
  - (ii) the sale is on credit and the customer accepts delivery (eg by signing a delivery note).
- (d) The critical event for a credit sale is usually the despatch of an invoice to the customer. There is then a legally enforceable debt, payable on specified terms, for a completed sale transaction.
- (e) The critical event for a cash sale is when delivery takes place and when cash is received; both take place at the same time.

It would be too cautious or 'prudent' to await cash payment for a credit sale transaction before recognising the sale, unless the customer is a high credit risk and there is a serious doubt about his ability or intention to pay.
- (f) It would again be over-cautious to wait for clearance of the customer's cheques before recognising sales revenue. Such a precaution would only be justified in cases where there is a very high risk of the bank refusing to honour the cheque.



## Question

## Revenue recognition

Caravans Deluxe is a retailer of caravans, dormer vans and mobile homes, with a year end of 30 June 20X8. It is having trouble selling one model – the \$30,000 Mini-Lux, and so is offering incentives for customers who buy this model before 31 May 20X7:

- (a) Customers buying this model before 31 May 20X7 will receive a period of interest free credit, provided they pay a non-refundable deposit of \$3,000, an instalment of \$15,000 on 1 August 20X7 and the balance of \$12,000 on 1 August 20X9.
- (b) A three-year service plan, normally worth \$1,500, is included free in the price of the caravan.

On 1 May 20X7, a customer agrees to buy a Mini-Lux caravan, paying the deposit of \$3,000. Delivery is arranged for 1 August 20X7.

As the sale has now been made, the director of Caravans Deluxe wishes to recognise the full sale price of the caravan, \$30,000, in the accounts for the year ended 30 June 20X7.

### Required

Advise the director of the correct accounting treatment for this transaction. Assume a 10% discount rate. Show the journal entries for this treatment.

### Answer

The director wishes to recognise the sale as early as possible. However, following IAS 18 *Revenue*, he cannot recognise revenue from this sale because the risks and rewards of ownership of the caravan have not been transferred. This happens on the date of delivery, which is 1 August 20X7. Accordingly, no revenue can be recognised in the current period.

The receipt of cash in the form of the \$3,000 deposit must be recognised. However, while the deposit is termed 'non-refundable', it does create an obligation to complete the contract. The other side of the entry is therefore to deferred income in the statement of financial position.

The journal entries would be as follows:

|        |                 |         |         |
|--------|-----------------|---------|---------|
| DEBIT  | Cash            | \$3,000 |         |
| CREDIT | Deferred income |         | \$3,000 |

*Being deposit received in advance of the sale being recognised.*

On 1 August 20X7, when the sale is recognised, this deferred income account will be cleared. In addition:

The revenue from the sale of the caravan will be recognised. Of this, \$12,000 is receivable in two years' time, which, with a 10% discount rate, is:  $\$12,000 / 1.1^2 = \$9,917$ . \$15,000 is receivable on 1 August 20X7.

The service plan is not really 'free' – nothing is. It is merely a deduction from the cost of the caravan. The \$1,500 must be recognised separately. It is deferred income and will be recognised over the three year period.

The sales revenue recognised in respect of the caravan will be a balancing figure.

The journal entries are as follows:

|        |   |          |          |
|--------|---|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | Deferred income   | \$3,000  |          |
| DEBIT  | Cash (1 <sup>st</sup> instalment)                         | \$15,000 |          |
| DEBIT  | Receivable (balance discounted)                           | \$9,917  |          |
| CREDIT | Deferred income (service plan monies received in advance) |          | \$1,500  |
| CREDIT | Sales (balancing figure)                                  |          | \$26,417 |

**BPP Note.** This question is rather fiddly, so do not worry too much if you didn't get all of it right. Read through our solution carefully, going back to first principles where required.

## 4.12 Principal or agent?

Previously, IAS 18 covered the **accounting treatment** for amounts collected by an agent on behalf of a principal, which is: recognise only the commission as revenue (not the amounts collected on behalf of the principal). However, it did not give guidance on determining whether an entity is acting as agent or principal.

In April 2009, the IASB issued some improvements to IFRS, most of which are minor. The most significant change is the additional guidance in the appendix to IAS 18 *Revenue* on determining whether an entity is acting as an agent or principal. The guidance is as follows.

### 4.12.1 Acting as principal

An entity is acting as a principal when it is **exposed to the significant risks and rewards** associated with the sale of goods or rendering of services. Features that indicate that an entity is acting as a principal include (individually or in combination):

- (a) **Primary responsibility** for providing goods or services to the customer or for fulfilling the order
- (b) The entity having the **inventory risk** before or after the customer order, during shipping or on return
- (c) **Discretion in establishing prices** (directly or indirectly) eg providing additional goods or services
- (d) The entity bearing the **customer's credit risk** for the amount receivable from the customer

### 4.12.2 Acting as agent

An entity is acting as an agent when it is **not exposed to the significant risks and rewards** associated with the sale of goods or rendering of services. One feature that indicates that an entity is an agent is that the amount the entity earns is **predetermined** eg fixed fee per transaction or percentage of amount billed to the customer.

## 4.13 Exposure Draft: Revenue recognition in contracts with customers

### 4.13.1 Reasons for the ED

The IASB and US Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) are undertaking a joint project to develop a new **revenue recognition** standard.

In US GAAP, there are more than 100 revenue recognition standards which produce results for different industries which are sometimes inconsistent with each other. In International GAAP, there are only two standards (IAS 11 and IAS 18), but they are inconsistent and vague.

The ED was issued in June 2010, following a 2008 Discussion Paper and re-exposed with some modifications in November 2011.

### 4.13.2 Proposed approach

**Step 1 Identify the contract with the customer.** Identifying a contract is usually straightforward, as there will be a written agreement or an alternative according to normal business practice. The entity would normally treat each contract separately, but there are cases where they might combine them. The key point is price interdependence. Usually a company would apply the proposals to a single contract. However, in some cases the company would account for two or more contracts together if the prices of those contracts are interdependent. Conversely, a company would segment a single contract and account for it as two or more contracts if some goods or services are priced independently of other goods and services.

**Step 2 Identify the separate performance obligations.** The key point is distinct goods or services. A contract includes promises to provide goods or services to a customer. Those promises are called performance obligations. A company would account for a performance obligation separately only if the promised good or service is distinct. A good or service is distinct if it is sold separately or if it could be sold separately because it has a distinct function and a distinct profit margin.

**Step 3 Determine the transaction price.** The key proposal is a probability weighted expected amount. The transaction price is the amount of consideration a company expects to be entitled to from the customer in exchange for transferring goods or services. The transaction price would reflect the company's probability-weighted estimate of variable

consideration (including reasonable estimates of contingent amounts) in addition to the effects of the customer's credit risk and the time value of money (if material).

**Step 4 Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations.** The key proposal is relative selling price allocation. A company would allocate the transaction price to all separate performance obligations in proportion to the stand-alone selling price of the good or service underlying each performance obligation. If the good or service is not sold separately, the company would estimate its stand-alone selling price.

**Step 5 Recognise revenue when a performance obligation is satisfied.** A company would recognise revenue when it satisfies a performance obligation by transferring the promised good or service to the customer. The good or service is transferred when the customer obtains control of the promised good or service. An indicator of this is when the customer has the risks and rewards of ownership.

The amount of revenue recognised is the amount allocated to that performance obligation in Step 4.

### 4.13.3 Additional guidance

The proposed standard gives **guidance on cost**:

A company would recognise the costs of obtaining a contract (eg selling and marketing costs) as expenses when incurred. If the costs incurred in fulfilling a contract are not eligible for recognition as an asset in accordance with other standards (eg inventory), the company would recognise an asset only if those costs:

- (a) Relate directly to a contract
- (b) Relate to future performance under the contract and
- (c) Are expected to be recovered.

The proposed standard would also contain enhanced disclosure requirements to help users of financial statements better understand the amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows from contracts with customers. Those proposals would require a company to disclose qualitative and quantitative information about:

- (a) its contracts with customers, including a maturity analysis for contracts extending beyond one year
- (b) the significant judgements, and changes in judgements, made in applying the proposed standard to those contracts.

### 4.13.4 Key effects of the proposed approach

- (a) **Revenue would be recognised only in the transfer of goods or services to a customer.** This proposal would affect some long-term contracts currently accounted for using a percentage of completion method when the customer does not receive goods or services continuously (eg some construction and some software development contracts). Under the proposal, a company would apply the percentage of completion method of revenue recognition only if the company transfers services to the customer throughout the contract – ie if the customer owns the work in progress as it is built or developed.
- (b) **Separate performance obligations would be recognised for distinct goods or services.** This proposal could result in some revenue being attributed to goods or services that are now considered incidental to the contract – for instance, to mobile phones that are provided free of charge with airtime contracts and to some post-delivery services, such as maintenance and installation.
- (c) **Probability weighted estimates would be required of the consideration to be received.** This could result in a company recognising some revenue on the transfer of a good or service, even if the consideration amount is contingent on a future event – for example, an agent that provides brokerage services in one period in exchange for an amount of consideration to be determined in future periods, depending on the customer's behaviour.

- (d) **A customer's credit risk would be reflected in the measurement of revenue.** This could result in a company recognising some revenue when it transfers a good or service to a customer even if there is uncertainty about the collectability of the consideration, rather than deferring revenue recognition until the consideration is collected.
- (e) **The transaction price will be allocated in proportion to the stand-alone selling price.** This will affect some existing practices, particularly in the software sector, that currently result in the deferral of revenue if a company does not have objective evidence of the selling price of a good or service to be provided.
- (f) **Contract acquisition costs are to be expensed.** This proposal would affect companies that currently capitalise such costs – for example, commissions and other directly incremental costs – and amortise them over the contract period.

## Chapter Roundup

- **Corporate governance** has been important in recent years and in the current syllabus it is important in the context of ethical behaviour.
- The 1989 *Framework for the Preparation of Financial Statements* was replaced in 2010 by the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*. This is the result of a joint project with the FASB.
- **Revenue recognition** is straightforward in most business transactions, but some situations are more complicated.
- IAS 18 *Revenue* is concerned with the **recognition of revenues** arising from fairly common transactions.
  - The sale of goods
  - The rendering of services
  - The use by others of enterprise assets yielding interest, royalties and dividends
- Generally revenue is recognised when the entity has transferred to the buyer the **significant risks and rewards of ownership** and when the revenue can be **measured reliably**.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 What is corporate governance?
- 2 Why is a conceptual framework necessary?
- 3 What are the disadvantages of a conceptual framework?
- 4 What are the seven sections of the IASB's *Framework*?
- 5 Revenue is generally recognised; under IAS 18, as earned at the .....  
(fill in the blanks).
- 6 How is revenue measured?
- 7 How should revenue be recognised when the transaction involves the rendering of services?

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 Corporate governance is the system by which companies are directed and controlled.
- 2 To provide a theoretical basis for financial reporting.
- 3
  - (a) A single conceptual framework may not suit all users
  - (b) Different standards, based on a different framework, may be needed to meet the needs of different users
  - (c) It is not clear that a conceptual framework does in fact facilitate the preparation of financial statements
- 4
  - (a) The objective of financial statements
  - (b) Underlying assumptions
  - (c) Qualitative characteristics of financial statements
  - (d) The elements of financial statements
  - (e) Recognition of the elements of financial statements
  - (f) Measurement of the elements of financial statements
  - (g) Concepts of capital and capital maintenance
- 5 Point of sale.
- 6 At the fair value of the consideration received.
- 7 By reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at the year end.

Now try the question below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level        | Marks | Time |
|--------|--------------|-------|------|
| Q1     | Introductory | n/a   | n/a  |



# Professional and ethical duty of the accountant



| Topic list                                       | Syllabus reference |
|--|--------------------|
| 1 Ethical theories                               | A2                 |
| 2 Influences on ethics                           | A2                 |
| 3 The social and ethical environment             | A2                 |
| 4 Ethics in organisations                        | A2                 |
| 5 Principles and guidance on professional ethics | A2                 |
| 6 Practical situations                           | A2                 |
| 7 Examination questions: an approach             | A2                 |
| 8 Professional skills: guidance from the ACCA    | N/A                |

## Introduction

Ethics are an important aspect of the ACCA qualification. They need to be applied in all aspects of managerial behaviour. An attempt to massage profit figures, or non-disclosure of a close relationship may amount to unethical behaviour. However, it is the nature of ethics to deny easy answers; furthermore, in the context of business, ethical prescriptions have to be practical to be of any use. This chapter focuses on the professional integrity of the accountant and director, but you will also consider ethics in the context of off balance sheet finance.

## Study guide

|     |  | Intellectual level |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| A2  | Ethical requirements of corporate reporting and the consequences of unethical behaviour                                      |                    |
| (a) | Appraise the potential ethical implications of professional and managerial decisions in the preparation of corporate reports | 3                  |
| (b) | Assess the consequences of not upholding ethical principles in the preparation of corporate reports                          | 3                  |

## Exam guide

Ethics are most likely to be considered in the context of the accountant's role as adviser to the directors. A question on the Pilot Paper asked you to explain why a deliberate misrepresentation in the financial statements was unethical. A scenario question at the end of this Study Text asks for a discussion of why directors might have acted unethically in adopting accounting policies to boost earnings.

## 1 Ethical theories

### FAST FORWARD

A key debate in ethical theory is whether ethics can be determined by **objective, universal principles**. How important the **consequences of actions** should be in determining an ethical position is also a significant issue.

### 1.1 An introduction to ethics

In this chapter you will encounter various philosophical, academic terms. We have to use this terminology as the examiner will use it in questions. However provided that you focus on certain basic issues, you will be able to negotiate this chapter successfully.

#### 1.1.1 Do ethics change over time and place?

One viewpoint is that ethics do vary between time and place. Slavery for example is now regarded as wrong, whereas in Roman times slavery was acceptable. The view that ethics vary between different ages and different communities is known as **ethical relativism** and is discussed in Section 1.3.

The opposing view is that ethics are unchanging over time and place; some courses of action are always right, others are always wrong. A simple example would be saying that it is always wrong to steal. The view that there are certain unchanging ethical rules is known as **ethical absolutism** and is discussed in Section 1.4.

#### 1.1.2 Should you consider the consequences of your actions when making ethical decisions?

One view is that society is best served by everyone following certain ethical rules, and obeying them no matter what the results are. The argument is that people will undermine society if they disobey the ethical rules, even if they do so with the intention of avoiding adverse consequences. This viewpoint, known as **deontological ethics**, was developed by Kant.

The opposing viewpoint is that you cannot divorce an action from its consequences, and when taking ethical decisions you must take account of what the consequences will be. This viewpoint is known as **teleological ethics**. If you take this viewpoint, that implies that you have to define what the best possible consequences are. The different variations of the teleological viewpoint try to do this.

### 1.1.3 What thought processes do people use when making ethical decisions?

What the theories are aiming to do is to complete the following sentence:

'You should act ethically because ...

In Section 2 we shall look at the work of Kohlberg who supplied various examples of thought processes, depending on the degree of ethical development of the individual.

- People who are less ethically developed may think: 'You should act ethically because you'll be punished if you don't.'
- People who have more advanced ethical development may think: 'You should act ethically because your country's laws say you should.'
- People at the highest level of ethical development may think: 'You should act ethically because it's always right to do so, no matter what the consequences and costs are to you personally.'



#### Question

#### Ethical issues

Briefly explain the main ethical issues that are involved in the following situations.

- Dealing with a repressive authoritarian government abroad
- An aggressive advertising campaign
- Employee redundancies
- Payments or gifts to officials who have the power to help or hinder the payees' operations

#### Answer

- Dealing with unpleasantly authoritarian governments can be supported on the grounds that it **contributes to economic growth and prosperity** and all the benefits they bring to society in both countries concerned. This is a consequentialist argument. It can also be opposed on consequentialist grounds as **contributing to the continuation of the regime**, and on deontological grounds as **fundamentally repugnant**.
- Honesty in advertising is an important problem. Many products are promoted exclusively on image. Deliberately creating the impression that purchasing a particular product will enhance the happiness, success and sex-appeal of the buyer can be attacked as **dishonest**. It can be defended on the grounds that the supplier is actually **selling a fantasy or dream** rather than a physical article.
- Dealings with employees are coloured by the **opposing views of corporate responsibility and individual rights**. The idea of a job as property to be defended has now disappeared from labour relations in many countries, but corporate decisions that lead to redundancies are still deplored. This is because of the obvious **impact of sudden unemployment on aspirations and living standards**, even when the employment market is buoyant. Nevertheless businesses have to consider the cost of employing labour as well as its productive capacity.
- The main problems with payments or gifts to officials are making distinction between those that should never be made, and those that can be made in certain cultural circumstances.
  - Extortion**. Foreign officials have been known to threaten companies with the complete closure of their local operations unless suitable payments are made.
  - Bribery**. This is payments for services to which a company is not legally entitled. There are some fine distinctions to be drawn; for example, some managers regard political contributions as bribery.
  - Grease money**. Multinational companies are sometimes unable to obtain services to which they are legally entitled because of deliberate stalling by local officials. Cash payments to the right people may then be enough to oil the machinery of bureaucracy.

- (iv) **Gifts.** In some cultures (such as Japan) gifts are regarded as an essential part of civilised negotiation, even in circumstances where to Western eyes they might appear ethically dubious. Managers operating in such a culture may feel at liberty to adopt the local customs.

## 1.2 Role of ethical theory

Ethics is concerned with right and wrong and how conduct should be judged to be good or bad. It is about how we should live our lives and, in particular, how we should **behave towards other people**. It is therefore relevant to all forms of human activity.

Business life is a fruitful source of ethical dilemmas because its whole purpose is **material gain**, the making of profit. Success in business requires a constant, avid search for potential advantage over others and business people are under pressure to do whatever yields such advantage.

It is important to understand that if ethics is applicable to corporate behaviour at all, it must therefore be a fundamental aspect of **mission**, since everything the organisation does flows from that. Managers responsible for strategic decision making cannot avoid responsibility for their organisation's ethical standing. They should consciously apply ethical rules to all of their decisions in order to filter out potentially undesirable developments. The question is however what ethical rules should be obeyed. Those that always apply or those that hold only in certain circumstances?

Ethical assumptions underpin all business activity as well as guiding behaviour. The continued existence of capitalism makes certain assumptions about the 'good life' and the desirability of private gain, for example. As we shall see in [Chapter 18](#), accountancy is allegedly not a value-neutral profession. It establishes and follows rules for the protection of shareholder wealth and the reporting of the performance of capital investment. Accordingly accounting, especially in the private sector, can be seen as a servant of capital, making the implicit assumptions about morality that capitalism does.

## 1.3 Ethical relativism and non-cognitivism

### Key term

**Relativism** is the view that a **wide variety of acceptable ethical beliefs and practices** exist. The ethics that are most appropriate in a given situation will depend on the conditions at that time.

The relativist approach suggests that all moral statements are essentially subjective and arise from the culture, belief or emotion of the speaker.

Non-cognitivism recognises the differences that exist between the rules of behaviour prevailing in different cultures. The view that right and wrong are culturally determined is called **ethical relativism** or **moral relativism**. Ethical rules will differ in different periods within the same society, and will differ between different societies. Acceptance of ethical relativism implies that a society should not impose moral imperatives strictly, since it accepts that different ethical and belief systems are acceptable.

This is clearly a matter of significance in the context of international business. Managers encountering cultural norms of behaviour that differ significantly from their own may be puzzled to know what rules to follow.



### Question

### Morality

What can be said about the morality of a society that allows abortion within certain time limits in certain circumstances, or which allows immigration if immigrants fulfil certain requirements (will benefit the local economy)?

The suggested treatment of these issues implies that the society is a non-cognitivist, ethically relative society. Banning abortion would be one sign of an ethically absolute society.

### 1.3.1 Strengths of relativism

- (a) Relativism highlights our **cognitive bias** in observing with our senses (we see only what we know and understand) and our **notational bias** (what we measure without using our senses is subject to the bias of the measurement methods used).
- (b) Relativism also highlights differences in **cultural beliefs**; for example all cultures may say that it is wrong to kill innocents, but different cultures may have different beliefs about who innocents actually are.
- (c) The philosopher Bernard Crick argued that differing absolutist beliefs result in **moral conflict** between people; (relativist) ethics should act to resolve such conflicts.
- (d) In the global economy, where companies conduct businesses in many different countries and cultures, adopting a relativist approach presumes **more flexibility** and therefore greater success.

### 1.3.2 Criticisms of relativism

- (a) Put simply, strong relativism is based on a **fundamental contradiction**; the statement that 'All statements are relative' is itself an absolute, non-relative statement. However it is possible to argue that some universal truths (certain laws of physics) exist, but deny other supposedly objective truths.
- (b) A common criticism of relativism, particularly by religious leaders, is that it leads to a **philosophy of 'anything goes'**, denying the existence of morality and permitting activities that are harmful to others.
- (c) Alternatively, some critics have argued for the existence of **natural moral laws** (discussed below). These are not necessarily religious laws; the atheist scientist Richard Dawkins has argued in favour of natural laws.
- (d) Ideas such as **objectivity and final truth** do have value – consider for example, the ethical principle that we shall discuss later for accountants to be objective.
- (e) If it's valid to say that everyone's differing opinions are **right**, then it's equally valid to say that **everyone's differing opinions are wrong**.

## 1.4 Ethical absolutism and cognitivism

### Key term

**Absolutism** is the view that there is an unchanging set of ethical principles that will apply in all situations, at all times and in all societies.

**Absolutist** approaches to ethics are built on the principle that **objective, universally applicable moral truths** exist and can be known. There is a set of moral rules that are always true. There are various methods of establishing these:

- (a) **Religions** are based on the concept of universally applicable principles.
- (b) **Law** can be a source of reference for establishing principles. However, ethics and law are not the same thing. Law must be free from ambiguity. However, unlike law, ethics can quite reasonably be an arena for debate, about both the principles involved and their application in specific rules.
- (c) **Natural law** approaches to ethics are based on the idea that a set of objective or 'natural' moral rules exists and we can come to know what they are. In terms of business ethics, the natural law approach deals mostly with **rights and duties**. Where there is a right, there is also a duty to respect that right. For those concerned with business ethics there are undeniable implications for

behaviour towards individuals. Unfortunately, the implications about duties can only be as clear as the rights themselves and there are wide areas in which disagreement about rights persists.

(d) **Deontological approaches** (see below).

Many absolutists would accept that some ethical truths may differ between different cultures. However they would also believe in certain basic truths that should be common to all cultures (for example, 'thou shall not kill').

## 1.5 Deontological ethics

### Key term

**Deontology** is concerned with the application of absolute, universal ethical principles in order to arrive at rules of conduct, the word deontology being derived from the Greek for 'duty'.

Deontology lays down **criteria** by which actions may be judged in advance, the outcomes of the actions are not relevant. The definitive treatment of deontological ethics is found in the work of the eighteenth century German philosopher, *Immanuel Kant*.

Kant's approach to ethics is based on the idea that facts themselves are neutral: they are what they are; they do not give us any indication of what should be. If we make moral judgements about facts, the criteria by which we judge are separate from the facts themselves. Kant suggested that the criteria come from within ourselves and are based on a **sense of what is right**; an intuitive awareness of the nature of good.

Kant spoke of motivation to act in terms of 'imperatives'. A **hypothetical imperative** lays down a course of action to achieve a certain result. For instance, if I wish to pass an examination I must study the syllabus. A **categorical imperative**, however, defines a course of action in terms of acting in accordance with **moral duty** without reference to outcomes, desire or motive. For Kant, moral conduct is defined by categorical imperatives. We must act in certain ways because it is right to do so – right conduct is an **end in itself**.

Kant arrived at three formulations of the categorical imperative.

(a) 'So act that the maxim of your will could hold as a principle establishing universal law.'

This is close to the common sense maxim called the golden rule found in many religious teachings, for example the bible:

In everything do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 7:12)

The difference between Kant's views and the golden rule is that under the golden rule, one could inflict harm on others if one was happy for the same harm to be inflicted on oneself. Kant however would argue that certain actions were universally right or wrong, irrespective of the personal, societal or cultural conditions.

Kant went on to suggest that this imperative meant that we have a duty not to act by maxims that result in logical contradictions. Theft of property for examples implies that it is permissible to steal, but also implies the existence of property; however if theft is allowed there can be no property, a logical contradiction. Kant also argued that we should act only by maxims that we believe should be universal maxims. Thus if we only helped others when there was advantage for ourselves, no-one would ever give help to others.

(b) 'Do not treat people simply as means to an end but as an end in themselves.'

The point of this rule is that it distinguishes between **people** and **objects**. We use objects as means to achieve an end: a chair is for sitting on, for instance. People are different.

We regard people differently from the way we regard objects, since they have unique intellects, feelings, motivations and so on of their own: treating them as objects denies their rationality and hence rational action.

Note, however, that this does not preclude us from using people as means to an end as long as we, at the same time, recognise their right to be treated as autonomous beings. Clearly, organisations and even society itself could not function if we could not make use of other people's services.

- (c) 'So act as though you were through your maxims a law-making member of the kingdom of ends.'
- Autonomous human beings are not subject to any particular interest and are therefore only subject to the universal laws which they make for themselves. However, they must regard those laws as binding on others, or they would not be universal and would not be laws at all.

### 1.5.1 Criticisms of Kant

- (a) Critics have pointed out a dualism in Kant's views; he sees humans as part of nature whose actions can be explained in terms of natural causes. Yet Kant also argues that human beings are **capable of self-determination** with full freedom of action and in particular an ability to act in accordance with the principles of duty. Man is therefore capable in effect of rising above nature, which appears to conflict with the view that man is a natural animal.
- (b) It is argued that you cannot take actions in a vacuum and must have regard for their **consequences**. The Swiss philosopher Benjamin Constant put forward the 'enquiring murderer' argument; if you agree with Kant and hold that Truth telling must be universal, then one must, if asked, tell a known murderer the location of his prey. Kant's response was that lying to a murderer denied the murderer's rationality, and hence denied the possibility of there being free rational action at all. In addition, Kant pointed out that we cannot always know what the consequences of our actions would be.
- (c) Kierkegaard argued that, whatever their expectations of others, **people failed to apply Kant's duties** to themselves, either by not exercising moral laws or not punishing themselves if they morally transgressed.

## 1.6 Teleological or consequentialist ethics: utilitarianism

There are two versions of consequentialist ethics:

- Utilitarianism – what is best for the greatest number
- Egoism – what is best for me

The teleological approach to ethics is to make moral judgements about courses of action by reference to their **outcomes or consequences**. The prefix *telios* is derived from the Greek and refers to issues of ends or outcomes.

Right or wrong becomes a question of **benefit or harm** rather than observance of universal principles.

**Utilitarianism** is the best-known formulation of this approach and can be summed up in the '**greatest good**' principle – 'greatest happiness of the greatest number'. This says that when deciding on a course of action we should choose the one that is likely to result in the greatest good for the greatest number of people. It therefore contrasts sharply with any absolute or universal notion of morality. The 'right' or 'wrong' can **vary between situations and over time** according to the greatest happiness of the greatest number.

Utilitarianism underlies the assumption that the **operation of the free market** produces the **best possible consequences**. Free markets, it is argued, create wealth, this leads to higher tax revenue, this can pay for greater social welfare expenditures.

### 1.6.1 Problems with utilitarianism

There is an immediate problem here, which is how we are to define what is good for people. Bentham, a philosopher who wrote on utilitarianism, considered that **happiness** was the measure of good and that actions should therefore be judged in terms of their potential for promoting happiness or relieving unhappiness. Others have suggested that longer lists of harmful and beneficial things should be applied.



#### Case Study

A connected problem lies in outcomes that may in fact be beneficial but are not recognised as such. The **structural adjustment programmes** provided by the International Monetary Fund are a case in point.

They are designed to align a country's economic incentives so that, by improving trade and public finances, to meet an objective, such as debt repayment. The IMF might argue, therefore, that the pain and dislocation suffered are short-term difficulties for long-term well-being. Critics of IMF structural adjustment programmes might suggest the opposite: that they are designed to remove money from the very poorest. The rights of the poor are more important than those of bondholders and to insist on repayment is unethical.

The utilitarian approach may also be questioned for its potential effect upon minorities. A situation in which a large majority achieved great happiness at the expense of creating misery among a small minority would satisfy the 'greatest good' principle. It could not, however, be regarded as ethically desirable.

However, utilitarianism can be a useful guide to conduct. It has been used to derive wide ranging rules and can be applied to help us make judgements about individual, unique problems.

#### Exam focus point

The Pilot Paper asked for the consequentialist and deontological approaches to ethics to be contrasted.

## 1.7 Teleological or consequentialist ethics: egoism

#### Key term

**Egoism** states that an act is ethically justified if decision-makers freely decide to pursue their own short-term desires or their long-term interests. The subject to all ethical decisions is the self.

Adam Smith argued that an egoistic pursuit of individual self-interest produced a desired outcome for society through **free competition and perfect information** operating in the marketplace. Producers of goods for example have to offer value-for-money, since competition means that customers will buy from competitors if they don't. Egoism can also link in with enlightened self-interest; a business investing in good facilities for its workforce to keep them content and hence maintain their loyalty.

### 1.7.1 Criticisms of egoism

One criticism of pure egoism is that it makes short-term selfish desires equivalent to longer-term, more beneficial, interests. A modified view would give most validity to exercising those short-term desires that were in long-term interests. A more serious criticism has been that the markets do not function perfectly, and that some participants can benefit themselves at the expense of others and also the wider environment – hence the debate on sustainability which we shall consider in [Chapter 3](#). Most fundamentally egoism is argued to be the **ethics of the thief** as well as the short-termist.

## 1.8 Pluralism

**Pluralism** accepts that different views may exist on morality, but suggests a consensus may be able to be reached in certain situations. A pluralist viewpoint is helpful in business situations where a range of perspectives have to be understood in order to establish a **course of action**. It emphasises the importance of morality as a **social phenomenon**; that some rules and arrangements need to be established for us to live together and we therefore need a good understanding of the different moralities that we will encounter.

However a consensus may not always be possible, and this is a key message of this section of the Text. Irreconcilable ethical disputes tend to arise when absolutists argue with relativists, or if you have a deontological viewpoint opposed to a teleological viewpoint. For example, during the recent debate in the UK about embryology, deontological arguments on the sanctity of life were opposed to teleological arguments about the scientific benefits of experimentation on embryos.



## 2 Influences on ethics

### FAST FORWARD

Ethical decision making is influenced by **individual and situational factors**.

**Individual factors** include **age and gender, beliefs, education and employment**, how much **control** individuals believe they have over their own situation and their **personal integrity**.

**Kohlberg's** framework relates to individuals' degree of **ethical maturity**, the extent to which they can take their own ethical decisions.

**Situational factors** include **the systems of reward, authority and bureaucracy, work roles, organisational factors**, and the **national and cultural contexts**.

### 2.1 The cultural context of ethics and corporate social responsibility

Models of ethical decision-making divide the cultural factors that influence decision-making into two categories:

- **Individual** – the characteristics of the individual making the decision
- **Situational** – the features of the context which determine whether the individual will make an ethical or unethical decision

The problem with identifying these factors is that it is difficult to break them down individually since many of them are interdependent. Also evidence on the importance of **individual factors** seems to be mainly from the **USA**, whereas information on **situational factors** seems mainly to be from **Europe**. This arguably reflects an American focus on individual economic participants, whereas European attention is more focused on the design of economic institutions and how they function morally and promote moral behaviour in others.

### 2.2 Individual influences

#### 2.2.1 Age and gender

Although some evidence suggests that the ways in which men and women respond to ethical dilemmas may differ, empirical studies do not clearly show whether men or women can be considered as more ethical. Similarly, although different age groups have been influenced by different experiences, again empirical evidence does not suggest that certain age groups are more moral than others.

#### 2.2.2 National and cultural beliefs

By contrast national and cultural beliefs seem to have a significant effect on ethical beliefs, shaping what individuals regard as acceptable business issues. Hofstede has indicated that significant differences lie in the following four areas:

- (a) **Individualism/collectivism** – the extent to which the culture emphasises the autonomous individual as opposed to group and community goals
- (b) **Power distance** – how much acceptance there is in the society of the unequal distribution of power, and the perceived gap between juniors and seniors in a society or social structure (eg children/parents, students/teachers, citizens/legislators)

Hickson and Pugh describe power distance as 'how removed subordinates feel from superiors in a social meaning of the word distance. In a high power distance culture, inequality is accepted... in a low power distance culture inequalities and overt status symbols are minimised and subordinates expect to be consulted and to share decisions with approachable managers'.

- (c) **Uncertainty avoidance** – individuals' preferences for certainties, rules and absolute truths
- (d) **Masculinity/femininity** – or the extent to which money and possessions are valued as against people and relationships

These factors may influence how an individual tackles an ethical problem; alone (in an individualist culture) or in consultation (in a collectivist situation). Other influences might be on how individuals respond to ethically questionable directives from their superiors; in power distance cultures, where hierarchy is respected, commands are less likely to be questioned (I was only obeying orders). Globalisation may weaken the influence of national factors, although there is often a close connection between the local culture and a particular geographical region.

### 2.2.3 Education and employment

By contrast globalisation might be expected to strengthen the influence of education and employment. There do appear to be some differences in ethical decision-making between those with different educational and professional experiences.

### 2.2.4 Psychological factors

Psychological factors are concerned with the ways in which people think, and hence **decide what is the morally right or wrong course of action**. Discussion has centred on **cognitive moral development** and **locus of control**.

### 2.2.5 Locus of control

The locus of control is **how much influence individuals believe** they have over the course of their own lives. Individuals with a high internal locus believe that they can shape their own lives significantly, whereas those with external locus believe that their lives will be shaped by circumstances or luck. This distinction suggests that those with an internal locus will take more responsibility for their actions and are more likely to consider the moral consequences of what they do. Research however does not clearly indicate whether this is true in practice. This may also link into attitudes towards risk and what can be done to deal with risk.

### 2.2.6 Personal integrity

Integrity can be defined as adhering to moral principles or values. Its ethical consequences are potentially very significant, for example in deciding whether to **whistleblow** on questionable practice at work, despite pressure from colleagues or superiors or negative consequences of doing so. However, evidence of its importance is limited because strangely it has not been included in many ethical decision models.

### 2.2.7 Moral imagination

Moral imagination is the level of awareness individuals have about the variety of moral consequences of what they do, how creatively they reflect on ethical dilemmas. The consequences of having a wide moral imagination could be an ability to see beyond the conventional organisational responses to moral difficulties, and formulate different solutions. Again, there is little research on this subject, but differing levels of moral imagination would seem to be a plausible reason why individuals with the same work background view moral problems in different ways.

## 2.3 Situational influences

The reason for considering situational influences on moral decision-making is that individuals appear to have 'multiple ethical selves' – they make different decisions in different circumstances. These circumstances might include **issue-related factors** (the nature of the issue and how it is viewed in the organisation) and **context-related factors** (the expectations and demands that will be placed on people working in an organisation).

## 2.4 Issue-related factors

### 2.4.1 Moral intensity

Thomas Jones proposed a list of six criteria that decision-makers will use to decide how ethically significant an issue was, and hence what they should do:

- **Magnitude of consequences** – the harms or the benefits that will result
- **Social consequences** – the degree of general agreement about the problem
- **Probability of effect** – the probability of the harms or benefits actually happening
- **Temporal immediacy** – the speed with which the consequences are likely to occur; if they are likely to take years, the moral intensity may be lower
- **Proximity** – the feelings of nearness that the decision-maker has for those who will suffer the impacts of the ethical decision
- **Concentration of effect** – whether some persons will suffer greatly or many people will suffer lightly

Research suggests that moral intensity is significant but has to be seen in the context of how an issue is perceived in an organisation.

### 2.4.2 Moral framing

Moral framing sets the context for how issues are **perceived** in organisations. Language is very important. Using words such as fairness and honesty is likely to trigger moral thinking. However, evidence suggests that many managers are reluctant to frame issues in moral terms seeing it as promoting disharmony, distorting decision-making and suggesting that they are not practical. Instead issues are more likely to be discussed in terms of **rational corporate self-interest**.

## 2.5 Context-related factors

### 2.5.1 Systems of reward

**Reward mechanisms** have obvious potential consequences for ethical behaviour. This works both ways. Basing awards on sales values achieved may encourage questionable selling practices; failing to reward ethical behaviour (or worst still penalising whistleblowers or other staff who act ethically) will not encourage an ethical culture.

Sadly a majority of studies on this area seem to indicate that there is a significant link between the rewarding of unethical behaviour and its continuation.

### 2.5.2 Authority

There are various ways in which managers may encourage ethical behaviour; by **direct instructions** to subordinates, by setting subordinates **targets** that are so challenging that they can only be achieved through taking unethical shortcuts. Failing to act can be as bad as acting, for example failing to prevent bullying. Studies suggest that many employees perceive their managers as lacking ethical integrity.

### 2.5.3 Bureaucracy

#### Key term

**Bureaucracy** is a system characterised by detailed rules and procedures, impersonal hierarchical relations and a fixed division of tasks.

Bureaucracy underpins the authority and reward system, and may have a number of impacts on individual's reactions to ethical decision-making:

- **Suppression of moral autonomy** – individual ethical beliefs tend to be overridden by the rules and roles of the bureaucracy

- **Instrumental morality** – seeing morality in terms of following procedures rather than focusing on the moral substance of the goals themselves
- **Distancing** individuals from the consequences of what they do
- **Denial of moral status** – that ultimately individuals are resources for carrying out the organisation's will rather than autonomous moral beings

#### 2.5.4 Work roles

Education and experience build up expectations of how people in particular roles will act. Strong evidence suggests that the expectations staff have about the roles that they adopt in work will override the individual ethics that may influence their decisions in other contexts.

#### 2.5.5 Organisational field

##### Key term

An **organisational field** is a community of organisations with a common 'meaning system' and whose participants interact more frequently with one another than those outside the field.

Organisations within an organisational field tend to share a common business environment, such as a common system of training or regulation. This means that they tend to cohere round common norms and values.

Within an organisational field a **recipe** is a common set of assumptions about organisational purposes and how to manage organisations. If the recipe is followed, it means that organisations within the organisational field can provide consistent standards for consumers for example. However, it can also mean that managers within the field cannot appreciate the lessons that could be learnt from organisations outside the field, and therefore transition outside the field may be difficult.



##### Case Study

An example would be a private sector manager joining a public service organisation and having to get used to different traditions and mechanisms, for example having to build consensus into the decision-making process.

The result of being in an organisational field can be a desire to achieve **legitimacy** – meeting the **expectations** that those in the same organisational field have in terms of the assumptions, behaviours and strategies that will be pursued.

#### 2.5.6 Organisational culture

##### Key term

**Organisational culture** is the 'basic assumptions and beliefs that are shared by members of an organisation, that operate unconsciously and define in a basic taken-for-granted fashion an organisation's view of itself and its environment.' (Handy)

Organisational culture relates to ways of acting, talking, thinking and evaluating. It can include shared:

- **Values** that often have 'official' status being connected to the organisation's mission statement but which can be vague (acting in the interests of the community)
- **Beliefs** that are more specific than assumptions but represent aspects of an organisation that are talked about, for example using 'ethical suppliers'
- **Behaviours**, the ways in which people within the organisation and the organisation itself operates, including work routines and symbolic gestures
- **Taken for granted assumptions**, which are at the core of the organisation's culture which people find difficult to explain but are central to the organisation. The **paradigm** represents the common assumptions and collective experience that an organisation must have to function meaningfully

Organisational culture may be different to (may conflict with) the official rules of the bureaucracy. Unsurprisingly it has been identified as a key element in decisions of what is morally right or wrong, as employees become conditioned by it into particular attitudes to ethical decision making.



## Case Study

In his memoirs the journalist Hunter Davies related that when he started working on a newspaper in London, he discovered that he was financially rather better off than he thought he would be because of being able to claim expenses. 'This was something that was explained to me on my very first day, not by the management, but by other reporters.' Staff would spend the first working morning of their week filling out their expenses 'for some the hardest part of their week'.

Davies was told what the normal expense claim for his role as a junior reporter was. All he had to do in order to claim that amount was submit bills for lunch or dinner with anyone; it didn't matter who they were so long as he had a piece of paper and could name them as a potential contact. Davies was informed that management knew, that it was an accepted part of national newspaper life and he would undermine the system if he didn't do what everyone else did.

This is a very good example of Level 2 Stage 3 of Kohlberg's framework, doing something because those close to you (colleagues) are doing it.

In addition to the main organisational culture, there may also be **distinct subcultures** often dependent upon the way the organisation is structured, for example function or division subcultures.

### 2.5.7 National and cultural context

In an organisational context, this is the **nation** in which the ethical decision is made rather than the nationality of the decision-maker. If someone spends a certain length of time working in another country, their views of ethical issues may be shaped by the norms of that other country, for example on sexual harassment. Globalisation may complicate the position on this.

## 3 The social and ethical environment

12/07 – 6/12

### FAST FORWARD

Firms have to ensure they obey the law: but they also face **ethical concerns**, because their reputations depend on a good image.

### Key term

**Ethics:** a set of moral principles to guide behaviour.

Whereas the political environment in which an organisation operates consists of laws, regulations and government agencies, the social environment consists of the customs, attitudes, beliefs and education of society as a whole, or of different groups in society; and the ethical environment consists of a set (or sets) of well-established rules of personal and organisational behaviour.

Social attitudes, such as a belief in the merits of education, progress through science and technology, and fair competition, are significant for the management of a business organisation. Other beliefs have either gained strength or been eroded in recent years:

- (a) There is a growing belief in preserving and improving the quality of life by reducing working hours, reversing the spread of pollution, developing leisure activities and so on. Pressures on organisations to consider the environment are particularly strong because most environmental damage is irreversible and some is fatal to humans and wildlife.
- (b) Many pressure groups have been organised in recent years to protect social minorities and under-privileged groups. Legislation has been passed in an attempt to prevent discrimination on grounds of race, sex, disability, age and sexual orientation.

- (c) Issues relating to the environmental consequences of corporate activities are currently debated, and respect for the environment has come to be regarded as an unquestionable good.

The ethical environment refers to justice, respect for the law and a moral code. The conduct of an organisation, its management and employees will be measured against ethical standards by the customers, suppliers and other members of the public with whom they deal.

### 3.1 Ethical problems facing managers

Managers have a duty (in most entities) to aim for profit. At the same time, modern ethical standards impose a duty to guard, preserve and enhance the value of the entity for the good of all touched by it, including the general public. Large organisations tend to be more often held to account over this than small ones.

In the area of **products and production**, managers have responsibility to ensure that the public and their own employees are protected from danger. Attempts to increase profitability by cutting costs may lead to dangerous working conditions or to inadequate safety standards in products. In the United States, product liability litigation is so common that this legal threat may be a more effective deterrent than general ethical standards. The Consumer Protection Act 1987 and EU legislation generally is beginning to ensure that ethical standards are similarly enforced in the UK.

Another ethical problem concerns **payments by companies to government or municipal officials** who have power to help or hinder the payers' operations. In *The Ethics of Corporate Conduct*, Clarence Walton refers to the fine distinctions which exist in this area.

- (a) **Extortion.** Foreign officials have been known to threaten companies with the complete closure of their local operations unless suitable payments are made.
- (b) **Bribery.** This refers to payments for services to which a company is not legally entitled. There are some fine distinctions to be drawn; for example, some managers regard political contributions as bribery.
- (c) **Grease money.** Multinational companies are sometimes unable to obtain services to which they are legally entitled because of deliberate stalling by local officials. Cash payments to the right people may then be enough to oil the machinery of bureaucracy.
- (d) **Gifts.** In some cultures (such as Japan) gifts are regarded as an essential part of civilised negotiation, even in circumstances where to Western eyes they might appear ethically dubious. Managers operating in such a culture may feel at liberty to adopt the local customs.

Business ethics are also relevant to competitive behaviour. This is because a market can only be free if competition is, in some basic respects, fair. There is a distinction between competing aggressively and competing unethically.

### 3.2 Examples of social and ethical objectives

Companies are not passive in the social and ethical environment. Many organisations pursue a variety of social and ethical objectives.

#### Employees

- (a) A minimum wage, perhaps with adequate differentials for skilled labour
- (b) Job security (over and above the protection afforded to employees by government legislation)
- (c) Good conditions of work (above the legal minima)
- (d) Job satisfaction

**Customers** may be regarded as entitled to receive a produce of good quality at a reasonable price.

**Suppliers** may be offered regular orders and timely payment in return for reliable delivery and good service.

## **Society as a whole**

- (a) Control of pollution
- (b) Provision of financial assistance to charities, sports and community activities
- (c) Co-operation with government authorities in identifying and preventing health hazards in the products sold

As far as it is possible, social and ethical objectives should be expressed quantitatively, so that actual results can be monitored to ensure that the targets are achieved. This is often easier said than done – more often, they are expressed in the organisation's mission statement which can rarely be reduced to a quantified amount.

Many of the above objectives are commercial ones – for example, satisfying customers is necessary to stay in business. The question as to whether it is the business of businesses to be concerned about wider issues of social responsibility *at all* is discussed shortly.

## **3.3 Social responsibility and businesses**

Arguably, institutions like hospitals, schools and so forth exist because health care and education are seen to be desirable social objectives by government at large, if they can be afforded.

However, where does this leave businesses? How far is it reasonable, or even appropriate, for businesses to exercise 'social responsibility' by giving to charities, voluntarily imposing strict environmental objectives on themselves and so forth?

One school of thought would argue that **the management of a business has only one social responsibility, which is to maximise wealth for its shareholders**. There are two reasons to support this argument.

- (a) If the business is owned by the shareholders the assets of the company are, ultimately, the shareholders' property. Management has no moral right to dispose of business assets (like cash) on non-business objectives, as this has the effect of reducing the return available to shareholders. The shareholders might, for example, disagree with management's choice of beneficiary. Anyhow, it is for the shareholders to determine how their money should be spent.
- (b) A second justification for this view is that management's job is to maximise wealth, as this is the best way that society can benefit from a business's activities.
  - (i) Maximising wealth has the effect of increasing the tax revenues available to the State to disburse on socially desirable objectives
  - (ii) Maximising wealth for the few is sometimes held to have a 'trickle down' effect on the disadvantaged members of society
  - (iii) Many company shares are owned by pension funds, whose ultimate beneficiaries may not be the wealthy anyway

This argument rests on certain assumptions.

- (a) The first assumption is, in effect, the opposite of the stakeholder view. In other words, it is held that the *rights* of legal ownership are paramount over all other *interests* in a business: while other stakeholders have an interest, they have few legal or moral rights over the wealth created.
- (b) The second assumption is that a business's *only* relationship with the wider social environment is an economic one. After all, that is what businesses exist for, and any other activities are the role of the State.
- (c) The defining purpose of business organisations is the maximisation of the wealth of their owners.

## **4 Ethics in organisations**

Ethics is a code of moral principles that people follow with respect to what is right or wrong. Ethical principles are not necessarily enforced by law, although the law incorporates moral judgements (murder is wrong ethically, and is also punishable legally).

Companies have to follow legal standards, or else they will be subject to fines and their officers might face similar charges. Ethics in organisations relates to **social responsibility** and **business practice**.

People that work for organisations bring their own values into work with them. Organisations contain a variety of ethical systems.

- (a) **Personal ethics** (eg deriving from a person's upbringing, religious or non-religious beliefs, political opinions, personality). People have different ethical viewpoints at different stages in their lives. Some will judge situations on 'gut feel'. Some will consciously or unconsciously adopt a general approach to ethical dilemmas, such as 'the end justifies the means'.
- (b) **Professional ethics** (eg ACCA's code of ethics, medical ethics).
- (c) **Organisation cultures** (eg 'customer first'). Culture, in denoting what is normal behaviour, also denotes what is the right behaviour in many cases.
- (d) **Organisation systems**. Ethics might be contained in a formal code, reinforced by the overall statement of values. A problem might be that ethics does not always save money, and there is a real cost to ethical decisions. Besides, the organisation has different ethical duties to different stakeholders. Who sets priorities?



## Case Study

Organisation systems and targets do have ethical implications. The *Harvard Business Review* reported that the US retailer, Sears, Roebuck was deluged with complaints that customers of its car service centre were being charged for unnecessary work: apparently this was because mechanics had been given targets of the number of car spare parts they should sell.

### 4.1 Leadership practices and ethics

The role of culture in determining the ethical climate of an organisation can be further explored by a brief reflection on the role of leaders in setting the ethical standard. A culture is partly a collection of symbols and attitudes, embodying certain truths about the organisation. Senior managers are also symbolic managers; inevitably they decide priorities; they set an example, whether they like it or not. Remember, too, that one of the roles of managers, according to Mintzberg is the **ceremonial one**.

**There are four types of cultural leadership in organisations.** (Note that these should *not* be confused with leadership styles.)

- (a) **Creative**. The culture of an organisation often reflects its founder, and it is therefore reasonable to expect that the founding visionary should set the ethical tone. Such leaders create the ethical style.
- (b) **Protective**. Such leaders sustain, or exemplify, the organisation's culture: for example, a company which values customer service may have leaders who are 'heroic' in their efforts to achieve it.
- (c) **Integrative**. Other leaders aim to create consensus through people, and perhaps flourish in an involvement culture. The danger is that this can turn to political manipulation; the 'consensus' created should work towards some valued cultural goal.
- (d) **Adaptive**. These leaders change an existing culture or set of ethics. (When appointed to run *British Airways*, *Colin Marshall* changed the sign on his door from Chief Executive to his own name.) However, a leader has to send out the right signals, to ensure that competitive behaviour remains ethical, to avoid bad publicity if nothing else.

### 4.2 Two approaches to managing ethics

#### FAST FORWARD

Inside the organisation, a **compliance based approach** highlights conformity with the law. An **integrity based approach** suggests a wider remit, incorporating ethics in the organisation's values and culture.

Organisations sometimes issue **codes of conduct** to employees. Many employees are bound by professional codes of conduct.



Lynne Paine (*Harvard Business Review*, March-April 1994) suggests that ethical decisions are becoming more important as penalties, in the US at least, for companies which break the law become tougher. (This might be contrasted with UK, where a fraudster whose deception ran into millions received a sentence of community service.) Paine suggests that there are two approaches to the management of ethics in organisations.

- Compliance-based
- Integrity-based

#### 4.2.1 Compliance-based approach

A compliance-based approach is primarily designed to ensure that the company acts within the letter of the law, and that violations are prevented, detected and punished. Some organisations, faced with the legal consequences of unethical behaviour take legal precautions such as those below.

- Compliance procedures
- Audits of contracts
- Systems for employees to inform superiors about criminal misconduct without fear of retribution
- Disciplinary procedures

Corporate compliance is limited in that it refers only to the law, but legal compliance is 'not an adequate means for addressing the full range of ethical issues that arise every day'. This is especially the case in the UK, where **voluntary** codes of conduct and self-regulation are perhaps more prevalent than in the US.

An example of the difference between the **legality** and **ethicality** of a practice is the sale in some countries of defective products without appropriate warnings. 'Companies engaged in international business often discover that conduct that infringes on recognised standards of human rights and decency is legally permissible in some jurisdictions.'

The compliance approach also overemphasises the threat of detection and punishment in order to channel appropriate behaviour. Arguably, some employers view compliance programmes as an insurance policy for senior management, who can cover the tracks of their arbitrary management practices. After all, some performance targets are impossible to achieve without cutting corners: managers can escape responsibility by blaming the employee for not following the compliance programme, when to do so would have meant a failure to reach target.

Furthermore, mere compliance with the law is no guide to **exemplary** behaviour.

#### 4.2.2 Integrity-based programmes

'An integrity-based approach combines a concern for the law with an **emphasis on managerial responsibility** for ethical behaviour. Integrity strategies strive to define companies' guiding values, aspirations and patterns of thought and conduct. When integrated into the day-to-day operations of an organisation, such strategies can help prevent damaging ethical lapses, while tapping into powerful human impulses for moral thought and action.

It should be clear to you from this quotation that an integrity-based approach to ethics treats ethics as an issue of organisation culture.

Ethics management has several tasks.

- To define and give life to an organisation's defining values.
- To create an environment that supports ethically sound behaviour
- To instil a sense of shared accountability amongst employees.

The table below indicates some of the differences between the two main approaches.

|   | Compliance   | Integrity  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Ethos</b>  | Knuckle under to external standards  | Choose ethical standards   |
| <b>Objective</b>  | Keep to the law  | Enable legal and responsible conduct   |
| <b>Originators</b>  | Lawyers  | Management, with lawyers, HR specialists etc   |
| <b>Methods<br/>(both includes education, and audits, controls, penalties)</b> | Reduced employee discretion  | Leadership, organisation systems   |
| <b>Behavioural assumptions</b>  | People are solitary self-interested beings   | People are social beings with values   |
| <b>Standards</b>  | The law  | Company values, aspirations (including law)  |
| <b>Staffing</b>   | Lawyers  | Managers and lawyers   |
| <b>Education</b>  | The law, compliance system   | Values, the law, compliance systems  |
| <b>Activities</b>   | Develop standards, train and communicate, handle reports of misconduct, investigate, enforce, oversee compliance | Integrate values <i>into</i> company systems, provide guidance and consultation, identify and resolve problems, oversee compliance |

In other words, an integrity-based approach **incorporates** ethics into corporate culture and systems.



## Case Study

*Charles Hampden-Turner* (in his book *Corporate Culture*) notes that attitudes to safety can be part of a corporate *culture*. He quotes the example of a firm called (for reasons of confidentiality) *Western Oil*.

Western Oil had a bad safety record. 'Initially, safety was totally at odds with the main cultural values of productivity (management's interests) and maintenance of a macho image (the worker's culture) ... Western Oil had a culture which put safety in conflict with other corporate values.' In particular, the problem was with its long-distance truck drivers (which in the US have a culture of solitary independence and self reliance) who drove sometimes recklessly with loads large enough to inundate a small town. The company instituted *Operation Integrity* to improve safety, in a lasting way, changing the policies and drawing on the existing features of the culture but using them in a different way.

The culture had five dilemmas.

- **Safety-first vs macho-individualism.** Truckers see themselves as 'fearless pioneers of the unconventional lifestyle ... "Be careful boys!" is hardly a plea likely to go down well with this particular group'. Instead of trying to control the drivers, the firm recommended that they become *road safety consultants* (or design consultants). Their advice was sought on improving the system. This had the advantage that 'by making drivers critics of the system their roles as outsiders were preserved and promoted'. It tried to tap their heroism as promoters of public safety.
- **Safety everywhere vs safety specialists.** Western Oil could have hired more specialist staff. However, instead, the company promoted cross functional safety teams from existing parts of the business, for example, to help in designing depots and thinking of ways to reduce hazards.
- **Safety as cost vs productivity as benefit.** 'If the drivers raced from station to station to win their bonus, accidents were bound to occur ... . The safety engineers rarely spoke to the line manager in charge of the delivery schedules. The unreconciled dilemma between safety and productivity had been evaded at management level and passed down the hierarchy until drivers were subjected to two incompatible injunctions, *work fast and work safely*'. To deal with this problem, safety would be built into the reward system.

- **Long-term safety vs short-term steering.** The device of recording 'unsafe' acts in operations enabled them to be monitored by cross-functional teams, so that the causes of accidents could be identified and be reduced.
- **Personal responsibility vs collective protection.** It was felt that if 'safety' was seen as a form of management policing it would never be accepted. The habit of management 'blaming the victim' had to stop. Instead, if an employee reported another to the safety teams, the person who was reported would be free of *official* sanction. Peer presence was seen to be a better enforcer of safety than the management hierarchy.

It has also been suggested that the following institutions can be established.

- An **ethics committee** is a group of executives (perhaps including non-executive directors) appointed to oversee company ethics. It rules on misconduct. It may seek advice from specialists in business ethics.
- An **ethics ombudsperson** is a manager who acts as the corporate conscience.

Accountants can also appeal to their professional body for ethical guidance.

**Whistle-blowing** is the disclosure by an employee of illegal, immoral or illegitimate practices on the part of the organisation. In theory, the public ought to welcome the public trust: however, confidentiality is very important in the accountants' code of ethics. Whistle-blowing frequently involves **financial loss** for the whistle-blower.

- The whistle-blower may lose his or her job.
- If the whistle-blower is a member of a professional body, he or she cannot, sadly, rely on that body to take a significant interest, or even offer a sympathetic ear. Some professional bodies have narrow interpretations of what is meant by ethical conduct. For many the duties of **commercial confidentiality** are felt to be more important.

#### Exam focus point

The ethics codes described above can be related to mission, culture and control strategies. A compliance-based approach suggest that bureaucratic control is necessary; an integrity-based approach relies on cultural control.

## 5 Principles and guidance on professional ethics

### FAST FORWARD

IFAC's and ACCA's guidance is very similar.

### 5.1 The public interest

### FAST FORWARD

Organisations sometimes issue **codes of conduct** to employees. Many employees are bound by professional codes of conduct.

The International Federation of Accountants' (IFAC's) *Code of Ethics* gives the key reason why accountancy bodies produce ethical guidance: the public interest.

'A distinguishing mark of the accountancy profession is its acceptance of the responsibility to act in the public interest. Therefore, a professional accountant's responsibility is not exclusively to satisfy the needs of an individual client or employer.

**The public interest** is considered to be the collective well-being of the community of people and institutions the professional accountant serves, including clients, lenders, governments, employers, employees, investors, the business and financial community and others who rely on the work of professional accountants.'

The **key reason** that **accountants need** to have an **ethical code** is that **people rely on them and their expertise**.

Accountants deal with a range of issues on behalf of clients. They often have access to confidential and sensitive information. Auditors claim to give an independent view. It is therefore critical that accountants, and particularly auditors, are, and are seen to be, independent.

As the auditor is required to be, and seen to be, ethical in his dealings with clients, ACCA publishes guidance for its members, the *Code of Ethics and Conduct*. This guidance is given in the form of fundamental principles, specific guidance and explanatory notes.

IFAC also lays down fundamental principles in its *Code of Ethics*. The fundamental principles of the two Associations are extremely similar.

## 5.2 The fundamental principles

| ACCA  |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Integrity.</b> Members should be <b>straightforward</b> and <b>honest</b> in all professional and business relationships.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objectivity.</b> Members <b>should not allow bias, conflict of interest or undue influence of others</b> to override professional or business judgements.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Professional Competence and Due Care.</b> Members have a continuing duty to maintain professional knowledge and skill at a level required to ensure that a client or employer receives the advantage of competent professional service based on current developments in practice, legislation and techniques. Members should act diligently and in accordance with applicable technical and professional standards when providing professional services.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Confidentiality.</b> Members should respect the confidentiality of information acquired as a result of professional or business relationships <b>and should not disclose</b> any such information to third parties without proper and specific authority <b>unless there is a legal or professional right or duty to disclose</b>. Confidential information acquired as a result of professional and business relationships should not be used for the personal advantage of the professional accountant or third parties.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Professional Behaviour.</b> Members should <b>comply with relevant laws and regulations and should avoid any action that discredits the profession</b>.</li> </ul>  |

## 5.3 Ethical framework

The ethical guidance discussed above is in the form of a framework. It contains some rules, for example, ACCA prohibits making loans to clients, but in the main it is flexible guidance. It can be seen as being a **framework rather than a set of rules**. There are a number of advantages of a framework over a system of ethical rules. These are outlined in the table below.

| Advantages of an ethical framework over a rules based system   |
|--|
| A framework of guidance places the onus on the auditor to <b>actively consider</b> independence for every given situation, rather than just agreeing a checklist of forbidden items. It also requires him to <b>demonstrate</b> that a responsible conclusion has been reached about ethical issues. |
| The framework <b>prevents auditors interpreting legalistic requirements narrowly</b> to get around the ethical requirements. There is an extent to which rules engender deception, whereas principles encourage compliance.  |
| A framework <b>allows for</b> the variations that are found in every <b>individual situation</b> . Each situation is likely to be different.   |
| A framework can accommodate a <b>rapidly changing environment</b> , such as the one that auditors are constantly in.   |
| However, a <b>framework can contain prohibitions</b> (as noted above) where these are necessary as safeguards are not feasible.  |

## FAST FORWARD

Exam questions may ask you to think about what should be done if breaches of laws, regulations or ethical guidelines occur. **Close relationships** between the parties or other **conflicts of interest** are often a complication.

## 6.1 Examination questions

Examination questions will expect you to be able to apply your understanding of ethical issues to practical problems arising in organisations. Later in this chapter we are going to suggest an approach that you may find helpful in dealing with such questions, but first we are going to take the bare bones of a situation and see how it might be built up into the kind of scenario you will have to face.

## 6.2 The problem

The exam may present you with a scenario, typically containing an array of detail much of which is potentially relevant. The problem, however, will be one or other of two basic types.

- (a) A wishes B to do C which is in breach of D  
where
- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| A | = | a situation, person, group of people, institution or the like                 |
| B | = | you/a management accountant, the person with the ethical dilemma              |
| C | = | acting, or refraining from acting, in a certain way                           |
| D | = | an ethical principle, quite possibly one of the ACCA's fundamental principles |
- (b) Alternatively, the problem may be that A has done C, B has become aware of it and D requires some kind of response from B.

## 6.3 Example: the problem

An accountant joined a manufacturing company as its Finance Director. The company had acquired land on which it built industrial units. The Finance Director discovered that, before he had started at the company, one of the units had been sold and the selling price was significantly larger than the amount which appeared in the company's records. The difference had been siphoned off to another company – one in which his boss, the Managing Director, was a major shareholder. Furthermore, the Managing Director had kept his relationship with the second company a secret from the rest of the board.

The Finance Director confronted the Managing Director and asked him to reveal his position to the board. However, the Managing Director refused to disclose his position to anyone else. The secret profits on the sale of the unit had been used, he said, to reward the people who had secured the sale. Without their help, he added, the company would be in a worse position financially.

The Finance Director then told the Managing Director that unless he reported to the board he would have to inform the board members himself. The Managing Director still refused. The Finance Director disclosed the full position to the board.

The problem is of the **second basic type**. **B** is of course the easiest party to identify. Here it is the **Finance Director**. **A** is clear, as well: it is the **Managing Director**. **C** is the **MD's breach of his directorial duties** regarding related party transactions not to obtain any personal advantage from his position of director without the consent of the company for whatever gain or profit he has obtained. **D** is the **principle that requires B not to be a party to an illegal act**. (Note that we distinguish between ethical and legal obligations. B has legal obligations as a director of the company. He has ethical obligations not to ignore his legal obligations. In **this** case the two amount to the same thing.)

## 6.4 Relationships

You may have a feeling that the resolution of the problem described above is just too easy, and you would be right. This is because A, B, C and D are either people, or else situations involving people, who stand in certain relationships to each other.

- A may be B's boss, B's subordinate, B's equal in the organisational hierarchy, B's husband, B's friend.
- B may be new to the organisation, or well-established and waiting for promotion, or ignorant of some knowledge relevant to the situation that A possesses or that the people affected by C possess.
- C or D, as already indicated, may involve some person(s) with whom B or A have a relationship – for example, the action may be to misrepresent something to a senior manager who controls the fate of B or A (or both) in the organisation.



### Question

### Relationships

Identify the relationships in the scenario above. What are the possible problems arising from these relationships?

### Answer

The MD is the Finance Director's boss. He is also a member of the board and is longer established as such than B, the Finance Director.

In outline the problems arising are that **by acting ethically the Finance Director will alienate the MD**. Even if the problem were to be resolved the episode would sour all future dealings between these two parties. Also, **the board may not be sympathetic to the accusations of a newcomer**. The Finance Director may find that he is ignored or even dismissed.

**Relationships should never be permitted to affect ethical judgement.** If you knew that your best friend at work had committed a major fraud, for example, **integrity** would demand that **in the last resort** you would have to bring it to the attention of somebody in authority. But note that this is only in the last resort. Try to imagine what you would do in practice in this situation.

Surely your **first course** would be to try to **persuade your friend** that what they had done was wrong, and that they themselves had an ethical responsibility to own up. Your **second option**, if this failed, might be to try to get **somebody** (perhaps somebody outside the organisation) that you knew could **exert pressure** on your friend to persuade him or her to own up.

There is obviously a limit to how far you can take this. The important point is that just because you are dealing with a situation that involves ethical issues, this **does not mean that all the normal principles of good human relations and good management have to be suspended**. In fact, this is the time when such business principles are most important.

## 6.5 Consequences

Actions have consequences and the consequences themselves are quite likely to have their own ethical implications.

In the example given above, we can identify the following further issues.

- (a) The MD's secret transaction appears to have been made in order to secure the sale of an asset the proceeds of which are helping to prop up the company financially. Disclosure of the truth behind the sale may mean that the company is pursued for compensation by the buyer of the site. The **survival of the company** as a whole may be jeopardised.
- (b) If the truth behind the transaction becomes public knowledge this could be highly damaging for the company's **reputation**, even if it can show that only one black sheep was involved.

- (c) The board may simply rubber stamp the MD's actions and so the Finance Director may still find that he is expected to be party to dishonesty. (This assumes that the **company as a whole is amoral** in its approach to ethical issues. In fact the MD's refusal to disclose the matter to the board suggests otherwise.)

In the last case we are back to square one. In the first two cases, the Finance Director has to consider the ethicality or otherwise of taking action that could lead to the collapse of the company, extensive redundancies, unpaid creditors and shareholders and so on.

## 6.6 Actions

In spite of the difficulties, your aim will usually be to reach a satisfactory resolution to the problem.

**The actions that you recommend** will often include the following.

- **Informal discussions** with the parties involved.
- **Further investigation** to establish the full facts of the matter. What extra information is needed?
- The **tightening up of controls or the introduction of new ones**, if the situation arose due to laxity in this area. This will often be the case and the principles of professional competence and due care and of technical standards will usually be relevant.
- **Attention to organisational matters** such as changes in the management structure, improving communication channels, attempting to change attitudes.



### Question

### Cunning plan

Your Finance Director has asked you to join a team planning a takeover of one of your company's suppliers. An old school friend works as an accountant for the company concerned, the Finance Director knows this, and has asked you to try and find out 'anything that might help the takeover succeed, but it must remain secret'.

### Answer

There are three issues here. First, you have a **conflict of interest** as the Finance Director wants you to keep the takeover a secret, but you probably feel that you should tell your friend what is happening as it may affect their job.

Second, the finance director is asking you to deceive your friend. Deception is unprofessional behaviour and will break your ethical guidelines. Therefore the situation is presenting you with **two conflicting demands**. It is worth remembering that no employer can ask you to break your ethical rules.

Finally, the request to break your own ethical guidelines constitutes **unprofessional behaviour** by the Finance Director. You should consider reporting him to their relevant body.

## 7 Examination questions: an approach

### 7.1 Dealing with questions

#### FAST FORWARD

In a situation involving ethical issues, there are **practical steps** that should be taken.

- Establish the facts of the situation by further investigation and work.
- Consider the alternative options available for action.
- Consider whether any professional guidelines have been breached.
- State the best course of action based on the steps above.

An article in a student magazine contained the following advice for candidates who wish to achieve good marks in ethics questions. (The emphasis is BPP's.)

The precise question requirements will vary, but in general marks will be awarded for:

- Analysis of the situation
- A recognition of ethical issues
- Explanation if appropriate of relevant part of ethical guidelines, and interpretation of its relevance to the question
- Making clear, logical, and appropriate recommendations for action. Making inconsistent recommendations does not impress examiners
- Justifying recommendations in practical business terms and in ethical terms

As with all scenario based questions there is likely to be **more than one acceptable answer**, and marks will depend on how well the case is argued, rather than for getting the 'right' answer.

However, questions based on ethical issues tend to produce a range of possible solutions which are, on the one hand, consistent with the ethical guidelines and acceptable, and on the other hand, a range of clearly inadmissible answers which are clearly in breach of the ethical guidelines and possibly the law.'

## 7.2 Step-by-step approach

We suggest, instead, that:

- You use the question format to structure your answer
- You bear in mind what marks are being awarded for (see above)
- You adhere to the following list of do's and don'ts. Be sure to read the notes following.

| DO  | Note | DON'T  |
|---|------|--|
| Identify the key facts as briefly as possible (one sentence?) | 1    | Merely paraphrase the question   |
| Identify the major principle(s) at issue                      | 2    | Regurgitate the entire contents of the <i>Ethical Guidelines</i>   |
| Consider alternative actions and their consequences           | 3    | List every single possible action and then explain how all the unsuitable ones can be eliminated                   |
| Make a decision and recommend action as appropriate           | 4    | Fail to make a decision or recommend action. Propose actions in breach of the <i>Ethical Guidelines</i> or the law |
| Justify your decision   | 5    | Be feeble. 'This should be done because it is ethical' is not terribly convincing                                  |

### Notes

- One sentence** is an ideal to aim for.
- Use the terminology of the ethical guidelines, but not *ad nauseam*.** 'Integrity' is often more clearly described as 'honesty' (although the two words are not synonymous). Don't forget the words 'fairness', 'bias', and 'influence' when discussing 'objectivity'.
  - Don't torture the case study to make it fit a fundamental principle:** if, say, 'justice' is the most persuasive word for a situation don't be afraid of using it.
  - If the law is involved, don't get carried away – this is **not a law exam**. 'The director has a statutory duty to ...' is sufficient: there is no need to go into legal detail.
- Useful ways of generating alternatives are:
  - To **consider the problem from the other side of the fence:** imagine you are the guilty party
  - To **consider the problem from the point of view of the organisation** and its culture and environment
- Making a decision is often very hard, but if you cannot do this you are simply not ready to take on the responsibilities of a qualified accountant. There are usually a number of decisions that could be justified, so **don't be afraid of choosing the 'wrong' answer**.
- This is not actually as hard as you might think.



## 7.3 Regurgitating the question

Possibly the most **common fault** in students' answers to questions on ethics is that they include large **amounts of unanalysed detail copied out from the question** scenarios in their answers. This earns no marks.

You can very easily avoid the temptation to merely paraphrase the question. Simply **begin your answer by stating that you are referring to 'issues'** (by which you mean all the details contained in the question) **discussed at a previous meeting, or set out in full in 'appended documents'**. If you do this you will be writing your report to someone already in possession of the same facts as you have.

## 7.4 Justifying your decision

The article quoted above says that **marks will be awarded for 'justifying recommendations in practical business terms and in ethical terms'**. We shall conclude by examining a passage from a model solution to a question on ethics to see how this can be done.

'Perhaps the first thing to do is to **report** the whole matter, **in confidence** and **informally**, to the chief internal auditor with suggestions that a **tactful investigation** is undertaken to **verify as many of the facts** as possible. The fact that the sales manager has already been tackled (informally) about the matter may be a positive advantage as **he/she may be recruited** to assist in the investigation. It could however be a problem as the information needed for further **investigation** may have already been removed. **Tact** is crucial as handling the matter the wrong way could adversely influence the whole situation. An understanding of who participants are and how they are implicated can be used positively to bring about change with the **minimum of disruption**.'

The key to this approach is **using the right language**, and to a large extent you cannot help doing so if you have sensible suggestions to make. The real problem that many students experience with questions of this type is lack of confidence in their own judgement. If you have sound business and managerial sense and you know the ethical guidelines there is every reason to suppose that an answer that you propose will be acceptable, so don't be shy of expressing an opinion.

### Exam focus point

In an internal company role, ethical problems could be in the following forms.

- Conflict of duties to different staff superiors
- Discovering an illegal act or fraud perpetrated by the company (ie its directors)
- Discovering a fraud or illegal act perpetrated by another employee
- Pressure from superiors to take certain viewpoints, for example towards budgets (pessimistic/optimistic etc) or not to report unfavourable findings

## 8 Professional skills – guidance from the ACCA

### FAST FORWARD

Marks are awarded for **professional skills**.

Ethics and professionalism are a key part of your ACCA qualification. Accordingly, the ACCA has stated that marks for professional skills will be awarded at the Professional Level. The examiner has provided specific guidance for P2 *Corporate Reporting*.

### 8.1 Professional Skills – Basis of the award of marks

Marks will be awarded for professional skills in this paper. These skills encompass the creation, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information, problem solving, decision making and communication skills.

More specifically they will be awarded for:

- (a) Developing information and ideas and forming an opinion.
- (b) Developing an understanding of the implications for the entity of the information including the entity's operating environment.
- (c) Analysing information and ideas by identifying:
  - The purpose of the analysis
  - The limitations of given information
  - Bias and underlying assumptions and their impact
  - Problems of liability and inconsistency
- (d) Identifying the purpose of a computation and whether it meets its purpose.
- (e) Analysing information, drawing conclusions and considering implications, and any further action required.
- (f) Identifying appropriate action in response to the information/analysis including advice or amendments to the data.
- (g) Considering, discussing and combining ideas and information from diverse sources to arrive at a solution or a broader understanding of the issues.
- (h) Analysing the information in the context of the views and reactions of the stakeholders.
- (i) Identifying solutions to problems or ranking potential solutions, or ways to manage the problem, or recommending a course of action.
- (j) Exercising good judgement and an ethical approach to providing advice in line with:
  - Relevant standards
  - Stakeholders' interests
  - The stated objectives
- (k) Communicating effectively and efficiently in producing required documents including:
  - The intended purpose of the document
  - Its intended users and their needs
  - The appropriate type of document
  - Logical and appropriate structure/format
  - Nature of background information and technical language
  - Detail required
  - Clear, concise and precise presentation

There will be **six marks awarded in each paper for the above professional skills**. Not all skills will be required in each paper.

## Chapter Roundup

- A key debate in ethical theory is whether ethics can be determined by **objective, universal principles**. How important the **consequences of actions** should be in determining an ethical position is also a significant issue.
- Ethical decision-making is influenced by **individual and situational factors**.
- **Individual factors** include **age and gender, beliefs, education and employment**, how much **control** individuals believe they have over their own situation and their **personal integrity**.
- **Kohlberg's** framework relates to individuals' degree of **ethical maturity**, the extent to which they can take their own ethical decisions.
- **Situational factors** include **the systems of reward, authority and bureaucracy, work roles, organisational factors**, and the **national and cultural contexts**.
- Firms have to ensure they obey the law: but they also face **ethical concerns**, because their reputations depend on a good image.
- Inside the organisation, a **compliance based approach** highlights conformity with the law. An **integrity based approach** suggests a wider remit, incorporating ethics in the organisation's values and culture.
- Organisations sometimes issue **codes of conduct** to employees. Many employees are bound by professional codes of conduct.
- Accountants require an **ethical code** because they hold positions of trust, and people rely on them.
- IFAC's and ACCA's guidance is very similar.
- Organisations sometimes issue **codes of conduct** to employees. Many employees are bound by professional codes of conduct.
- Exam questions may ask you to think about what should be done if breaches of laws, regulations or ethical guidelines occur. **Close relationships** between the parties or other **conflicts of interest** are often a complication.
- In a situation involving ethical issues, there are **practical steps** that should be taken.
  - Establish the facts of the situation by further investigation and work.
  - Consider the alternative options available for action.
  - Consider whether any professional guidelines have been breached.
  - State the best course of action based on the steps above.
- Marks are awarded for **professional skills**.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 Which view of ethics states that right and wrong are culturally determined?
  - A Ethical relativism
  - B Cognitivism
  - C Teleological
  - D Deontological
- 2 Fill in the blank.

The ..... approach to ethics is to make moral judgements about courses of action by reference to their outcomes or consequences.
- 3 In what areas of national and cultural beliefs has Hofstede identified significant differences?
- 4 What is the significance of the post-conventional stage of an individual's moral development according to Kohlberg?
- 5 What ethical problems face management?
- 6 What objectives might a company have in relation to wider society?
- 7 To whom might management have responsibilities, and what are some of these responsibilities?
- 8 Why does Mintzberg say that the profit motive is not enough?
- 9 Describe two approaches to the management of ethics in an organisation.
- 10 What systems of ethics might you find in an organisation?
- 11 What is whistle-blowing?
- 12 Match the fundamental principle to the characteristic.
  - (a) Integrity
  - (b) Objectivity
    - (i) Members should be straightforward and honest in all professional and business relationships.
    - (ii) Members should not allow bias, conflict of interest or undue influence of others to override professional or business judgements.

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 A Ethical relativism
- 2 Teleological or consequentialist
- 3
  - Individualism vs collectivism
  - Acceptance of unequal distribution of power and status
  - How much individuals wish to avoid uncertainties
  - Masculinity vs femininity, money and possessions vs people and relationships
- 4 The post-conventional stage is when individuals make their own ethical decisions in terms of what they believe to be right, not just acquiescing in what others believe to be right.
- 5 There is a constant tension between the need to achieve current profitability, the need to safeguard the stakeholders' long term investment and the expectations of wider society.
- 6 Protection of the environment, support for good causes, a responsible attitude to product safety.
- 7 Managers of businesses are responsible to the owners for economic performance and to wider society for the externalities related to their business operations.
- 8 Large businesses are rarely controlled by their shareholders; they receive a lot of support from public funds; and their activities have wider consequences.
- 9 A compliance-based approach aims to remain within the letter of the law by establishing systems of audit and review so that transgressions may be detected and punished. An integrity-based approach tries to promote an ethical culture in which individuals will do the right thing.
- 10 Personal ethics, professional ethics, organisation culture, organisation systems.
- 11 Informing outside regulatory agencies about transgressions by one's organisation.
- 12 (a) (i)  
(b) (ii)

Now try the question below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level        | Marks | Time |
|--------|--------------|-------|------|
| Q2     | Introductory | n/a   | n/a  |



# Environmental and social reporting

3

| Topic list                  | Syllabus reference |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Environmental reporting   | H1                 |
| 2 Sustainability            | A3                 |
| 3 Social responsibility     | A3                 |
| 4 Human resource accounting | A3                 |

## Introduction

Environmental issues are very topical. Just because these topics are discursive does not mean that you can 'waffle'. Environmental reporting also comes under current developments as this is an area that is changing.

## Study guide

|           |   | Intellectual level |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| <b>A3</b> | <b>Social responsibility</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Discuss the increased demand for transparency in corporate reports and the emergence of non-financial reporting standards | 3                  |
| (b)       | Discuss the progress towards a framework for environmental and sustainability reporting                                   | 3                  |
| <b>H1</b> | <b>Environmental and social reporting</b>   |                    |
| (a)       | Appraise the impact of environmental, social and ethical factors on performance measurement                               | 3                  |
| (b)       | Evaluate current reporting requirements in this area  | 3                  |
| (c)       | Discuss why entities might include disclosures relating to the environment and society                                    | 3                  |

## Exam guide

This topic could be tested as a current issue, or as an aspect of the limitations of conventional financial statements, or alternatively in the context of provisions, covered in [Chapter 9](#).

Environmental reporting may be tested under the broader heading of social responsibilities.

## 1 Environmental reporting

12/07

### FAST FORWARD

Although not compulsory, **environmental reports** are becoming increasingly important. You should distinguish

- Items that **affect the financial statements** (eg IAS 37)
- Items that **affect the environmental report**

At the end of the 1980s there were perhaps only two or three companies in the world issuing environmental reports. Now most listed companies produce them. Worldwide there are around 20 award schemes for environmental reporting, notably the ACCA's. This section looks at environmental reporting mainly under three headings:

- The effect of environmental matters on management information and accounting
- External reporting and auditing
- Possible future developments

Let us consider the major areas of impact on (any) accountant's job caused by consideration of environmental matters.

### (a) Management accountant

- Investment appraisal: evaluation of environmental costs and benefits.
- Incorporating new costs, capital expenditure and so on, into budgets and business plans.
- Undertake cost/benefit analysis of any environmental improvements.

### (b) Financial accountant

- The effect of revenue costs: site clean up costs, waste disposal or waste treatment costs and so on, which will affect the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.
- Gauging impacts on the statement of financial position, particularly liabilities, contingencies, provisions *and* valuation of assets.
- The effect of environmental matters, and particularly potential liabilities, on a company's relationship with bankers, insurers and major shareholders (institutional shareholders).
- Environmental performance evaluation in annual reports.



- (c) **Project accountant**
  - (i) Environmental audit of proposed takeovers, mergers and other planning matters.
  - (ii) Investment appraisal.
- (d) **Internal auditor:** environmental audit.
- (e) **Systems accountant:** effect on, and required changes to management and financial information systems.

## 1.1 What is environmental accounting?

The following list encompasses the major aspects of environmental accounting.

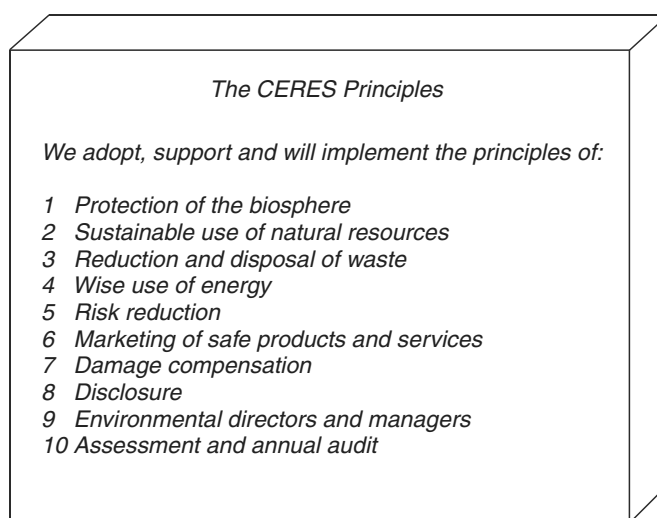
- (a) Recognising and seeking to mitigate the negative environmental effects of conventional accounting practice.
- (b) Separately **identifying environmentally related costs and revenues** within the conventional accounting systems.
- (c) Devising new forms of financial and non-financial accounting systems, information systems and control systems to **encourage more environmentally benign management decisions**.
- (d) Developing new forms of **performance measurement**, reporting and appraisal for both internal and external purposes.
- (e) Identifying, examining and seeking to **rectify** areas in which conventional (financial) criteria and environmental criteria are in **conflict**.
- (f) Experimenting with ways in which, **sustainability** may be assessed and incorporated into organisational orthodoxy.'

*Accounting for the Environment* Bob Gary (with Jan Bebbington and Diane Walters)

The whole environmental agenda is **constantly changing** and businesses therefore need to monitor the situation closely. Most businesses, certainly those in the UK, have generally ignored environmental matters in the past. How long will they be able to do so?

## 1.2 Management information and accounting

The means of codifying a company's attitude towards the environment is often the creation of a published **environmental policy document** or charter. This may be internally generated or it may be adopted from a standard environmental charter, such as the **CERES Principles**.



The problem here, as with other similar principles or charters, is that the commitment required from companies is generally too high and the fear exists that the principles may have legal status which could

have a severe effect on a company's liability. Other documents available which are similar to the *CERES Principles* are:

- The International Chamber of Commerce Business Charter for Sustainable Developments
- The Chemical Industries Association Responsible Care Programme
- The Confederation of British Industry Agenda for Voluntary Action
- Friends of the Earth Environmental Charter for Local Government

Adopting such a charter is one thing; implementing and monitoring it are more important and generally more difficult to achieve.

## 1.3 Environmental audit

Environmental auditing is exactly what it says: auditing a business to assess its impact on the environment, or as the CBI expressed it 'the systematic examination of the interactions between any business operation and its surroundings'.

The audit will cover a range of areas and will involve the performance of different types of testing. The scope of the audit must be determined and this will depend on each individual organisation. There are, however, some aspects of the approach to environmental auditing which are worth mentioning.

- (a) **Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs)** are required, under EU directive, for all major projects which require planning permission and have a material effect on the environment. The EIA process can be incorporated into any environmental auditing strategy.
- (b) **Environmental surveys** are a good way of starting the audit process, by looking at the organisation as a whole in environmental terms. This helps to identify areas for further development, problems, potential hazards and so forth.
- (c) **Environmental SWOT analysis.** A 'strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats' analysis is useful as the environmental audit strategy is being developed. This can only be done later in the process, when the organisation has been examined in much more detail.
- (d) **Environmental Quality Management (EQM).** This is seen as part of TQM (Total Quality Management) and it should be built in to an environmental management system. Such a strategy has been adopted by companies such as IBM, Dow Chemicals and by the Rhone-Poulenc Environmental Index which has indices for levels of water, air and other waste products.
- (e) **Eco-audit.** The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a regulation for a voluntary community environmental auditing scheme, known as the eco-audit scheme. The scheme aims to promote improvements in company environmental performance and to provide the public with information about these improvements. Once registered, a company will have to comply with certain on-going obligations involving disclosure and audit.
- (f) **Eco-labelling.** Developed in Germany, this voluntary scheme will indicate those EC products which meet the highest environmental standards, probably as the result of an EQM system. It is suggested that eco-audit *must* come before an eco-label can be given.
- (g) **BS 7750 Environmental Management Systems.** BS 7750 also ties in with eco-audits and eco-labelling and with the quality BSI standard BS 5750. Achieving BS 7750 is likely to be a first step in the eco-audit process.
- (h) **Supplier audits,** to ensure that goods and services bought in by an organisation meet the standards applied by that organisation.



### Case Study

In June 1999 BP Amoco commissioned KPMG to conduct an independent audit of its greenhouse gas emissions in the first ever environmental audit.

## 1.4 Financial reporting

There are **no disclosure requirements relating to environmental matters under IFRSs**, so any disclosures tend to be **voluntary** unless environmental matters happen to fall under standard accounting principles (eg recognising liabilities).

- (a) In most cases disclosure is descriptive and unquantified.
- (b) There is little motivation to produce environmental information and many reasons for not doing so, including secrecy.
- (c) The main factor seems to be apathy on the part of businesses but more particularly on the part of shareholders and investors. The information is not demanded, so it is not provided.

Environmental matters may be reported in the accounts of companies in the following areas.

- Contingent liabilities
- Exceptional charges
- Operating and financial review comments
- Profit and capital expenditure forecasts

The voluntary approach contrasts with the position in the United States, where the SEC/FASB accounting standards are obligatory.

While nothing is compulsory, there are a number of **published guidelines** and **codes of practice**, including:

- The Confederation of British Industry's guideline *Introducing Environmental Reporting*
- The ACCA's *Guide to Environment and Energy Reporting*
- The Coalition of Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES) formats for environmental reports
- The Friends of the Earth *Environmental Charter for Local Government*
- The Eco Management and Audit Scheme Code of Practice

## 1.5 Example: Environmental liabilities

You have met IAS 37 *Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets* in your earlier studies. IAS 37 deals with the issue of whether environmental liabilities should be provided for. The example below is taken from an article by Alan Pizzey which appeared in a past edition of *CIMA Student*. Study the example and attempt the question which follows it.

MegaBux Co is a multinational holding company. During the year a number of situations have arisen and the board is to meet soon to determine an appropriate treatment.

### Site A

This site is occupied by a small refinery. The site and some adjacent land has been contaminated by chemical spillages. The cost of remedying the contamination is \$20m, but under local laws there is no requirement to clean up the site.

### Site B

Similar contamination has arisen but the local government, and a neighbouring land owner, require the contamination to be remedied soon. The cost of cleaning up the site is \$15m, but an extra \$5m could be spent to raise the standard of the operation in line with undertakings given to the local community ten years ago.

## Solution

### Site A

The mere existence of contamination does not establish an obligation on the part of the company and without an obligation there is no need for a provision.

### Site B

An obligation does exist which the local government and a neighbour can prove in court. At least \$15m must be provided, but there may be a constructive obligation, wider than a legal obligation, to spend an extra \$5m to raise the standard of rectification. Concern for its long term reputation may influence the company to honour its undertaking given to the local community.



## Question

## Contamination

### Site C

Considerable contamination needs to be remedied, but the managing director is arguing that no provision is required this year since the amount concerned cannot be estimated with accuracy.

### Site D

Spillage of chemicals has reduced the value of the site from \$25m, its book value, to \$10m, its current realisable value. By spending \$5m on rectification, the site value will be increased to \$20m. The spillage has seeped into a local river and fines of \$3m are now payable.

## Answer

### Site C

While the exact amount of the expenditure may not be known with certainty, it should be possible to arrive at a realistic and prudent estimate. It is not acceptable to omit a liability on the grounds that its amount is not known with certainty – this would be a distortion.

### Site D

The fines of \$3m are a current cost to be charged to profit or loss. The spillage has impaired the value of the site, which must be written down to its new market value of \$20m after rectification. The cost of the write-down (\$5m) and the cost of the rectification (\$5m) are charged to profit or loss. The site is now carried in the books at its recoverable amount.

## 1.6 The environmental report and the exam

You may be asked in the exam to interpret an environmental report, though not to prepare one. Your report should distinguish between:

- (a) Transactions that affect the financial statements, for example provisions that need to be made under IAS 37
- (b) Information to be disclosed elsewhere, for example in the operating and financial review, or in a separate environmental report.

### Exam focus point

Have a go at the Pilot Paper question in the Exam Question Bank. This distinguishes between environmental matters that affect the financial statements and those which do not, but are nevertheless important. You are more likely to get part of a question on this topic than a full question.

## 1.7 Example: Environmental report

A good example of an environmental report is the Boots report for 1999/2000. This was published as a separate report consisting of around 20 pages. Extracts from the report are reproduced below to give you a feel for it. Note that the report is based around 'key performance indicators'. These are monitored against targets. We emphasise that this is not the only possible approach to environmental reporting.

### **Environmental policy statement**

We have a responsibility as a company to take proper care of the environment on behalf of our shareholders, customers, staff and the communities in which we operate. Caring for the environment is an essential part of the way we run our business.

We are committed to managing responsibly the way in which our activities affect the environment by:

- Optimising the use of energy
- Ensuring efficient use of materials
- Encouraging re-use and recycling
- Incorporating the principle of sustainable development.

By integrating environmental considerations into our everyday activities, the environment will be managed alongside other business considerations such as safety, quality and value.

### **Management**

We will set objectives and targets for those activities which significantly affect the environment and we will measure our performance over time. Details of our progress will be published at least annually.

Environmental audits and inspections will be undertaken to monitor our progress against this policy.

Within the individual businesses there is a clear structure of responsibility devolved into each business via an appointed manager with overall environmental responsibility. At a corporate level, the Environmental Affairs team co-ordinates environmental issues for the company through the Environmental Working Party.

The company's significant impacts have been assessed and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been selected to track performance over time. Data to monitor these is generated via environmental management systems that are incorporated into business systems and regularly audited.

Environmental management is integrated into everything we do from product development to the supply chain and staff training.

### **Key performance indicators 99/00**

#### *Energy*

In 1999/2000 total company energy use decreased by 5.3 per cent, while energy efficiency improved by 10.2 per cent.

Over the last four years energy efficiency, as measured by kWh per \$ thousand turnover, has improved by 12 per cent overall, maintaining a positive trend.

#### *Transport*

Commercial transport efficiency improved by 2 per cent.

Alongside the ongoing internal data verification programme, improvements to data management systems have resulted in additional transport data being reported for 1998/99. Transport efficiency over the last three years, as measured by litres of diesel consumed per \$ million turnover, maintained a positive trend overall with a 2 per cent improvement recorded over the last year.

The efficiency of inventory delivery, as measured by the volume of inventory delivered per 1000 litres of fuel, reduced by 3.7 per cent at Boots The Chemists. This is due to a combination of factors, including new store openings and the closure of an old warehouse in an urban centre (see Progress against targets). The move to lower sulphur diesel for commercial fleets has also had a negative impact on fuel efficiency. Trials of alternative fuel vehicles have continued.

#### *Carbon dioxide and global warming*

In the last year, like-for-like CO<sub>2</sub> emissions decreased by 4.4 per cent.

The main greenhouse gas associated with the company's operations is CO<sub>2</sub> arising primarily from energy use in manufacturing and retailing, and emissions from its transport fleets. Some 84 per cent of total emissions relate to energy consumption. Similarly, around 85 per cent of transport emissions relate to commercial fleets, with around 8 per cent to company cars.

The company's modern combined heat and power (CHP) energy centre on the head office site continues to contribute to a global reduction in annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of around 44,000 tonnes compared with purchasing electricity from third party suppliers. This represents a reduction in the company's total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of around 15 per cent each year. The saving is achieved through the re-use of waste heat from the electricity generation process to generate usable steam.

#### *Waste*

Around 26,000 tonnes of waste was recovered through recycling or incineration with heat recovery.

As the business is primarily retailing, the largest proportion of waste (91 per cent) is transit packaging and general office waste that is mainly non-hazardous. Other wastes arise from manufacturing processes, laboratories, garage and pharmacy operations.

Of the 54,000 tonnes of material identified as waste, some 26,000 tonnes (48 per cent) was recovered through recycling or incineration with heat recovery. The majority of the remaining 28,000 tonnes of waste (94 per cent) was disposed to landfill.

Quantifying the weight of non-hazardous waste is difficult due to small quantities of unweighed waste being collected from a large number of retail locations by multiple collection vehicles, and shopping centres amalgamating non-hazardous waste from a number of retailers for bulk collection. Because of this, although the company's data collection systems for waste have continued to improve, it is unlikely that year-on-year comparisons will be meaningful for some time to come.

#### *Packaging*

In the last year the company handled some 162,000 tonnes of packaging.

Minimising packaging is a complex business challenge where a number of considerations have to be balanced. These include evaluating the wide variety of roles performed by packaging (from improved keeping qualities for food and medical products to optimal shapes for efficient stacking and transportation) together with aspects such as design, quality, performance, cost and environment.

In addition, several factors mask the performance that can be directly attributed to packaging management. In particular, consumer and business demands in retailing require ongoing changes to the scale of product ranges and the general product mix within stores, which can produce conflicting trends in packaging use.

The issue will remain as a key performance indicator given its perceived environmental impact in the retail and manufacturing sectors, but it is unlikely that a valid, quantitative comparison of company performance will be developed in this area.

#### *Water and effluent*

In the last year Boots Contract Manufacturing reduced the effluent load per unit produced by more than 18 per cent.

Centralised monitoring of water consumption continued with substantial effort being put into the development of robust data management systems. Water conservation in Boots Contract Manufacturing, across all production areas, has again been an area of considerable focus. Improvements such as the elimination of 'once-through' water cooling systems have been implemented in key areas. Fitting improved temperature controls to a tempering belt reduced steam demand as well as saving cooling water.

Water use has been benchmarked across departments and factories to enable sharing of best practice in successful conservation strategies. A computerised data reporting system in the main factory on the Nottingham site allows water use profiles to be analysed. This has been a significant factor in bringing about change. For example, over the past four years water consumption in the factory over the Christmas shutdown period has been reduced from 60 per cent to less than 10 per cent of that on a normal working day. This experience has been shared and improved water metering is now being installed at the Airdrie factory.

In other areas external factors, such as the reduced use of preservatives in products and third party customer specifications that predefine equipment-cleaning procedures, resulted in some increased water use. Overall, water use per unit of production was reduced by 2.6 per cent against a target of 3 per cent.

Reducing waste discharged as effluent has been targeted in several key areas. Process changes have brought about material savings at Nottingham and, at Airdrie, a new system for cleaning pipes between product batches has reduced the amount of water required for this operation by 90 per cent. Together, all these initiatives reduced the loss of material to drain by more than 18 per cent (as measured by chemical oxygen demand and solids load per unit 'produced').

## 2 Sustainability

### 2.1 What is sustainability?

**Pressure** is mounting for companies to **widen their scope for corporate public accountability**. Many companies are responding by measuring and disclosing their social impacts.

Examples of social measures include: philanthropic donations, employee satisfaction levels and remuneration issues, community support, and stakeholder consultation information.

The next step beyond environmental and social reporting is sustainability reporting which includes the economic element of sustainability (such as wages, taxes and core financial statistics) and involves integrating environmental, social and economic performance data and measures.

### 2.2 The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

#### FAST FORWARD

The Global Reporting Initiative arose from the need to **address the failure of the current governance structures to respond to changes in the global economy**.

It is 'a long-term, multi-stakeholder, international undertaking whose mission is to develop and disseminate globally applicable Sustainability Reporting Guidelines for voluntary use by organisations reporting on the economic, environmental and social dimensions of their activities, products and services'.

### 2.3 GRI Guidelines

The GRI published revised Sustainability Reporting Guidelines ('G3') in 2006. In 2011 the GRI launched G3.1, an update with expanded guidance for reporting on human rights (application of risk assessments, grievance remediation), local community impacts and gender (return and retention rates after employee leave, equal remuneration).

The Guidelines set out the framework of a sustainability report. It consists of five sections:

| GRI Report content |   | Detail of GRI requirements   |
|--------------------|---|--|
| 1                  | <i>Strategy and Analysis</i>                          | Provides a high-level, strategic view of the organisation's relationship to sustainability in order to provide context for subsequent and more detailed reporting, including a statement from the CEO. |
| 2                  | <i>Organisational Profile</i>                         | The organisation's structure including brands, location of operations, geographical markets served and size of operations.   |
| 3                  | <i>Report Parameters</i>                              | The reporting period, materiality, report boundaries (eg countries), data measurement techniques and a GRI Content Index.  |
| 4                  | <i>Governance, Commitments and Engagement</i>         | Governance structure of the organisation, commitments to external initiatives and how the organisation engages the stakeholders in its business.   |
| 5                  | <i>Management Approach and Performance Indicators</i> | Organised by economic, environmental, and social categories. Each category includes a Disclosure on Management Approach and a corresponding set of Core and Additional Performance Indicators.         |

## 2.4 Indicators in the GRI framework

GRI structures key performance indicators according to a hierarchy of category, aspect and indicator. Indicators are grouped in terms of the three dimensions of the conventional definition of sustainability – economic, environmental, and social.

| CATEGORY |                                  | ASPECT  |
|----------|----------------------------------|---|
| Economic | Economic                         | Economic performance<br>Market presence<br>Indirect economic impacts  |
|          | Environmental                    | Materials<br>Energy<br>Water<br>Biodiversity<br>Emissions, effluents, and waste<br>Products and services<br>Compliance<br>Transport<br>Overall  |
| Social   | Labour Practices and Decent Work | Employment<br>Labour/management relations<br>Occupational health and safety<br>Training and education<br>Diversity and equal opportunity  |
|          | Human Rights                     | Investment and procurement practices<br>Non-discrimination<br>Freedom of association and collective bargaining<br>Child labour<br>Forced and compulsory labour<br>Security practices<br>Indigenous rights |
|          | Society                          | Community<br>Corruption<br>Public policy<br>Anti-competitive behaviour<br>Compliance  |
|          | Product Responsibility           | Customer health and safety<br>Product and service labelling<br>Marketing communications<br>Customer privacy<br>Compliance   |

## 2.5 Influence of GRI

There is a trend to report on broader sustainability issues and to include **social and economic information** alongside environmental disclosures.

An increasing number of companies, including BT, Vauxhall Motors Ltd, British Airways and Shell are following the GRI guidelines to some extent in their reporting.

## 2.6 Example: BT

BT's Social and Environmental Report for the year ended 31 March 2004 complies with the Global Reporting Initiative Guidelines. To give an overview of the company's social and environmental



performance, the report selects 11 non-financial key performance indicators. This performance relates to the 2004 financial year, compared with 2003.

- (a) Customer dissatisfaction down 22%
- (b) Broadband now available to more than 85% of all UK homes and businesses, up from 67%
- (c) People Satisfaction Index increased from 67% to 71%
- (d) Increase in the percentage of ethnic minority employees from 8.6% to 8.9% and disabled employees from 2.0% to 2.1%, though the percentage of women declined from 23.6% to 22.7%
- (e) Global Warming CO<sub>2</sub> emissions now 42% lower than 1996
- (f) Waste to landfill down 10,201 tonnes to 79,677 tonnes, percentage of total waste recycled up from 25% to 26%
- (g) Health & Safety significant incident rate down from 113 to 87 per 10,000 full-time employees
- (h) Percentage of suppliers stating they have a good working relationship with BT is 94%
- (i) Ethical trading risk assessment questionnaires completed by 242 suppliers and 13 on-site assessments undertaken
- (j) Awareness of our Statement of Business Practice in the UK up 1% to 84%
- (k) Direct community investment of £5.6 million plus £12.4 million in further funding and support in mind.



## Question

## Indicators

Compare this brief summary with the table above, ticking off performance indicators. If you have time, look for further details and developments on [www.globalreporting.org](http://www.globalreporting.org).

## 3 Social responsibility

### FAST FORWARD

The **stakeholder** view holds that there are many groups in society with an interest in the organisation's activities. Some firms have objectives for these issues. Some argue, however, that a business's only objective should be to make money: the State, representing the public interest, can levy taxes to spend on socially desirable projects or can regulate organisational activities.

Not only does the environment have a significant influence on the structure and behaviour of organisations, but also organisations have some influence on their environment.

Since organisations have an effect on their environment, it is arguable that they should act in a way which shows **social awareness and responsibility**.

'A society, awakened and vocal with respect to the urgency of social problems, is asking the managers of all kinds of organisations, particularly those at the top, what they are doing to discharge their social responsibilities and why they are not doing more.'

*Koontz, O'Donnell and Weihrich*

Social responsibility is expected from all types of organisation.

- (a) **Local government** is expected to provide services to the local community, and to preserve or improve the character of that community, but at an acceptable cost to the ratepayers.
- (b) **Businesses** are expected to provide goods and services, which reflect the needs of users and society as a whole. These needs may not be in harmony – arguably, the development of the Concorde aeroplane and supersonic passenger travel did not contribute to the public interest, and caused considerable inconvenience to residents near airports who suffer from excessive aircraft noise. A business should also be expected to anticipate the future needs of society; examples of socially useful products might be energy-saving devices and alternative sources of power.

- (c) **Pollution control** is a particularly important example of social responsibility by industrial organisations, and some progress has been made in the development of commercial processes for re-cycling waste material. British Coal attempts to restore the environment by planting on old slag heaps.
- (d) **Universities and schools** are expected to produce students whose abilities and qualifications will prove beneficial to society. A currently popular view of education is that greater emphasis should be placed on vocational training for students.
- (e) In some cases, **legislation** may be required to enforce social need, for example to regulate the materials used to make crash helmets for motor cyclists, or to regulate safety standards in motor cars and furniture. Ideally, however, organisations should avoid the need for legislation by taking **earlier self-regulating action**.

### 3.1 Social responsibility and businesses

Arguably, institutions like hospitals, schools and so forth exist because health care and education are seen to be desirable social objectives by government at large, if they can be afforded.

However, where does this leave businesses? How far is it reasonable, or even appropriate, for businesses to exercise 'social responsibility' by giving to charities, voluntarily imposing strict environmental objectives on themselves and so forth?

One school of thought would argue that **the management of a business has only one social responsibility, which is to maximise wealth for its shareholders**. There are two reasons to support this argument.

- (a) If the business is owned by the shareholders the assets of the company are, ultimately, the shareholders' property. Management has no moral right to dispose of business assets (like cash) on non-business objectives, as this has the effect of reducing the return available to shareholders. The shareholders might, for example, disagree with management's choice of beneficiary. Anyhow, it is for the shareholders to determine how their money should be spent.
- (b) A second justification for this view is that management's job is to maximise wealth, as this is the best way that society can benefit from a business's activities.
  - (i) Maximising wealth has the effect of increasing the tax revenues available to the State to disburse on socially desirable objectives.
  - (ii) Maximising wealth for the few is sometimes held to have a 'trickle down' effect on the disadvantaged members of society.
  - (iii) Many company shares are owned by pension funds, whose ultimate beneficiaries may not be the wealthy anyway.

This argument rests on certain assumptions.

- (a) The first assumption is, in effect, the opposite of the stakeholder view. In other words, it is held that the *rights* of legal ownership are paramount over all other *interests* in a business: while other stakeholders have an interest, they have few legal or moral rights over the wealth created.
- (b) The second assumption is that a business's *only* relationship with the wider social environment is an economic one. After all, that is what businesses exist for, and any other activities are the role of the State.
- (c) The defining purpose of business organisations is the maximisation of the wealth of their owners.

Henry Mintzberg (in *Power In and Around Organisations*) suggests that simply viewing organisations as vehicles for shareholder investment is inadequate.

- (a) In practice, he says, organisations are rarely controlled effectively by shareholders. Most shareholders are passive investors.
- (b) Large corporations can manipulate markets. Social responsibility, forced or voluntary, is a way of recognising this.
- (c) Moreover, businesses do receive a lot of government support. The public pays for roads, infrastructure, education and health, all of which benefits businesses. Although businesses pay tax, the public ultimately pays, perhaps through higher prices.

- (d) Strategic decisions by businesses always have wider social consequences. In other words, says Mintzberg, the firm produces two outputs: **goods and services** and the **social consequences of its activities** (eg pollution).

### 3.1.1 Externalities

If it is accepted that businesses do not bear the total social cost of their activities, then the exercise of social responsibility is a way of compensating for this.

An example is given by the environment. Industrial pollution is injurious to health: if someone is made ill by industrial pollution, then arguably the polluter should pay the sick person, as damages or in compensation, in the same way as if the business's builders had accidentally bulldozed somebody's house.

In practice, of course, while it is relatively easy to identify statistical relationships between pollution levels and certain illnesses, mapping out the chain of cause and effect from an individual's wheezing cough to the dust particles emitted by Factory X, as opposed to Factory Y, is quite a different matter.

Of course, it could be argued that these external costs are met out of general taxation: but this has the effect of spreading the cost amongst other individuals and businesses. Moreover, the tax revenue may be spent on curing the disease, rather than stopping it at its source. Pollution control equipment may be the fairest way of dealing with this problem. Thus advocates of social responsibility in business would argue that business's responsibilities then do not rest with paying taxes.

However, is there any justification for social responsibility outside remedying the effects of a business's direct activities? For example, should businesses give to charity or sponsor the arts? There are several reasons why they should.

- (a) If the **stakeholder concept** of a business is held, then the public is a stakeholder in the business. A business only succeeds because it is part of a wider society. Giving to charity is one way of encouraging a relationship.
- (b) Charitable donations and artistic sponsorship are a useful medium of **public relations** and can reflect well on the business. It can be regarded, then, as another form of promotion, which like advertising, serves to enhance consumer awareness of the business, while not encouraging the sale of a particular brand.

The arguments for and against social responsibility of business are complex ones. However, ultimately they can be traced to different assumptions about society and the relationships between the individuals and organisations within it.



#### Question

#### Ethics

The Heritage Carpet Company is a London-based retailer which imports carpets from Turkey, Iran and India. The company was founded by two Europeans who travelled independently through these countries in the 1970s. The company is the sole customer for carpets made in a number of villages in each of the source countries. The carpets are hand woven. Indeed, they are so finely woven that the process requires that children be used to do the weaving, thanks to their small fingers. The company believes that it is preserving a 'craft', and the directors believe that this is a justifiable social objective. Recently a UK television company has reported unfavourably on child exploitation in the carpet weaving industry. There were reports of children working twelve hour shifts in poorly lit sheds and cramped conditions, with consequent deterioration in eyesight, muscular disorders and a complete absence of education. The examples cited bear no relation to the Heritage Carpet Company's suppliers although children are used in the labour force, but there has been a spate of media attention. The regions in which the Heritage Carpet Company's supplier villages are found are soon expected to enjoy rapid economic growth.

What boundary management issues are raised for the Heritage Carpet Company?

## Answer

*Many.* This is a case partly about boundary management and partly about enlightened self-interest and business ethics. The adverse publicity, although not about the Heritage Carpet Company's own suppliers, could rebound badly. Potential customers might be put off. Economic growth in the area may also mean that parents will prefer to send their children to school. The Heritage Carpet Company as well as promoting itself as preserving a craft could reinvest some of its profits in the villages (eg by funding a school), or by enforcing limits on the hours children worked. It could also pay a decent wage. It could advertise this in a 'code of ethics' so that customers are reassured that the children are not simply being exploited. Alternatively, it could not import child-made carpets at all. (This policy, however, would be unlikely to help communities in which child labour is an economic necessity. Children already living on the margins of subsistence might end up even more exploited, in begging or prostitution.)



## Question

### More ethics

- (a) Identify some common barriers to the successful adoption of ethical standards in business practice.
- (b) Explain the practical steps that organisations can take towards creating an ethical framework for corporate governance.

## Answer

### a) Problems with ethical framework

Over the past few years the topic of business ethics has been examined and debated by many writers and academics. Although many organisation world-wide have adopted or redefined their business with ethics in mind, there are many people both in business and who study the area who see many barriers to businesses implementing an ethical framework.

#### What constitutes ethics

Defining 'what we mean by ethics' is for the most part easy to understand (inappropriate gifts, accepting money, environmental protection are all ethical issues). More **contentious issues** are topics such as workplace safety, product safety standards, advertising content and whistle-blowing which are areas where some businesses have been considered less ethical.

#### Necessity for action

Actions speak **louder than words**. Ethics are guidelines or rules of conduct by which we aim to live by. It is the actual conduct of the people in the organisation that, collectively, determines the organisation's standards – in other words it is not what the organisations 'says', but rather what it 'does' which is the real issue. It is no good having a code of ethics that is communicated to the outside world, but is ignored and treated with disdain by those inside the organisation.

#### Varying cultures

Globalisation and the resultant need to operate within different ethical frameworks has **undermined the idea** that ethical guidance can be defined in simple absolute terms. It may be culturally acceptable to promote by merit in one country, or by seniority in another. Paying customs officials may be acceptable in some cultures, but taboo in others.

#### Ethical versus commercial interests

Ethical and commercial interests have, it is argued, always diverged to some extent. Some organisations have seen for example the issues of **'being seen to be ethical'** as a good business move. However this viewpoint is pragmatic rather than idealistic; being ethical is seen as a means towards the end of gaining a better reputation and hence increasing sales.

## Policies of others

**Modern commercialism** places great demands on everyone in organisations to succeed and provide the necessary revenues for the future growth and survival of the business. Acting with social responsibility can be hard, as not everyone plays by the same rules.

### (b) Need for practical steps

If organisations are to **achieve a more ethical stance** they **need to put into place a range of practical steps** that will achieve this. Developing an ethical culture within the business will require the organisation to communicate to its workforce the 'rules' on what is considered to be ethical and is not. Two approaches have been identified to the management of ethics in organisations.

#### Rules-based approach

This is primarily designed to ensure that the organisation acts **within the letter of the law**, and that violations are **prevented, detected and punished**. This is very much the case in the US, where legal compliance is very much part of the business environment. The problem here is that legislation alone will not have the desired effect, particularly for those businesses who operate internationally and therefore may not be subject to equivalent legislation in other jurisdictions.

#### Integrity-based programmes

Here the concern is not for any legal control, but with developing an **organisational culture**. The task of ethics management is to define and give life to an organisation's **defining values** and to create an environment that supports ethical behaviour and to instil a sense of **shared accountability** among all employees. Integrity-based programmes require not just words or statements, but on seeing and doing and action. The purpose with this approach is not to exact revenge through legal compliance but the develop within the workforce a **culture of ethics** that has **value and meaning** for those in it.

The integrity-based approach encompasses all aspects of the business – **behavioural assumptions** of what is right or is wrong; staffing, education and training, audits and activities that promote a social responsibility across the workforce.

Organisations can also take further steps to reinforce their values by adopting **ethical committees** who are appointed to rule on misconduct and to develop ethical standards for the business.

#### Kohlberg's framework

Kohlberg's ethical framework demonstrates how individuals advance through different levels of moral development, their advance relating to how their **moral reasoning develops**. Kohlberg's framework goes from individuals who see ethical decisions solely in terms of the good or bad consequences for themselves through to individuals who choose to follow universal ethical principles, even if these conflict with the values of the organisation for which they are working.

The importance of different components of an organisation's ethical framework can indicate the level of moral reasoning that staff are in effect expected to employ.

#### Pre-conventional reasoning

A rules-based framework that sets out **expected behaviour** in detail and has strong provisions for punishing breaches implies that staff are at the lowest stage of development – they define right or wrong solely in terms of expected rewards or punishments. An emphasis on bureaucratic controls, including the reporting of all problems that occur with staff, would be designed to prevent 'You scratch my back, I scratch yours' behaviour that is also part of moral reasoning at this level.

#### Conventional reasoning

An emphasis on a **strong ethical culture** would indicate staff are expected to adopt the intermediate stage of Kohlberg's framework. **Peer pressure**, also the concepts that managers should set an **example**, are features of this sort of ethical approach; if also the organisation appears to be responding to **pressures from outside** to behave ethically, this suggests higher level reasoning within this stage

### Post-conventional reasoning

An ethical approach based on staff using post-conventional reasoning would be likely to emphasise adherence to an ethical code. A detailed code based on rights and values of society would imply ethical reasoning based on the idea of the organisation **enforcing a social contract**. Higher-level reasoning would be expected if the code was framed in terms of more abstract principles such as justice or equality.



### Question

### Social responsibility

Mineral, a public limited company, has prepared its financial statements for the year ended 31 October 20X3. The following information relates to those financial statements.

|   | 20X3 | 20X2 |
|---|------|------|
|   | \$m  | \$m  |
| Group revenue                             | 250  | 201  |
| Gross profit                              | 45   | 35   |
| Profit before interest and tax            | 10   | 9    |
| Profit before tax                         | 12   | 8    |
| Profit for the year                       | 5    | 4    |
| Non-current assets                        | 42   | 36   |
| Current assets                            | 55   | 43   |
| Current liabilities                       | 25   | 24   |
| Non-current liabilities – long-term loans | 13   | 9    |
| Equity                                    | 59   | 46   |

The company expects to achieve growth in retained earnings of about 20% in the year to 31 October 20X4. Thereafter retained earnings are expected to accelerate to produce growth of between 20% and 25%. The growth will be generated by the introduction of new products and business efficiencies in manufacturing and in the company's infrastructure.

Mineral manufactures products from aluminium and other metals and is one of the largest producers in the world. Production for 20X3 increased by 18% through the acquisition of a competitor company, increased production at three of its plants and through the regeneration of old plants. There has been a recent growth in the consumption of its products because of the substitution of aluminium for heavier metals in motor vehicle manufacture. Cost reductions continued as a business focus in 20X3 and Mineral has implemented a cost reduction programme to be achieved by 20X6. Targets for each operation have been set.

Mineral's directors feel that its pricing strategy will help it compensate for increased competition in the sector. The company recently reduced the price of its products to the motor vehicle industry. This strategy is expected to increase demand and the usage of aluminium in the industry. However, in spite of the environmental benefits, certain car manufacturers have formed a cartel to prevent the increased usage of aluminium in car production.

In the period 20X3 to 20X5, Mineral expects to spend around \$40 million on research and development and investment in non-current assets. The focus of the investments will be on enlarging the production capabilities. An important research and development project will be the joint project with a global car manufacturer to develop a new aluminium alloy car body.

In January 20X3, Mineral commenced a programme of acquisition of its own ordinary shares for cancellation. At 31 October 20X3, Mineral had purchased and cancelled five million ordinary shares of \$1. In addition, a subsidiary of Mineral had \$4 million of convertible redeemable loan notes outstanding. The loan notes mature on 15 June 20X6 and are convertible into ordinary shares at the option of the holder. The competitive environment requires Mineral to provide medium and long term financing to its customers in connection with the sale of its products. Generally the financing is placed with third party lenders but due to the higher risks associated with such financing, the amount of the financing expected to be provided by Mineral itself is likely to increase.

The directors of Mineral have attempted to minimise the financial risk to which the group is exposed. The company operates in the global market place with the inherent financial risk that this entails. The

management have performed a sensitivity analysis assuming a 10% adverse movement in foreign exchange rates and interest rates applied to hedging contracts and other exposures. The analysis indicated that such market movement would not have a material effect on the company's financial position.

Mineral has a reputation for responsible corporate behaviour and sees the work force as the key factor in the profitable growth of the business. During the year the company made progress towards the aim of linking environmental performance with financial performance by reporting the relationship between the eco-productivity index for basic production, and water and energy costs used in basic production. A feature of this index is that it can be segregated at site and divisional level and can be used in the internal management decision-making process.

The directors of Mineral are increasingly seeing their shareholder base widen with the result that investors are more demanding and sophisticated. As a result, the directors are uncertain as to the nature of the information which would provide clear and credible explanations of corporate activity. They wish their annual report to meet market expectations. They have heard that many companies deal with three key elements of corporate activity, namely reporting business performance, the analysis of the financial position, and the nature of corporate citizenship, and have asked your firm's advice in drawing up the annual report.

#### Required

Draft a report to the directors of Mineral setting out the nature of information which could be disclosed in annual reports in order that there might be better assessment of the performance of the company.

Candidates should use the information in the question and produce their report under the headings:

- (a) Reporting business performance
- (b) Analysis of financial position
- (c) The nature of corporate citizenship

**Note.** Use your knowledge of ratios from your F7 studies, but build on it.

## Answer

### REPORT

To: The Directors, Mineral  
From: Accountant  
Date: 12 November 20X1

#### *Information to improve assessment of corporate performance*

In addition to the main financial statements, annual reports need to contain information about **key elements of corporate activity**. This report focuses on three main areas.

- Reporting business performance
- Analysis of the financial position
- Nature of corporate citizenship

#### (a) **Reporting business performance**

A report on business performance may include a ratio analysis, with a year on year comparison. The ratios commonly selected are those concerned with **profitability and liquidity**:

##### **Profitability**

|  | 20X1                                | 20X0                                 |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Return on capital employed                 | $\frac{10}{59 + 13} = 13.9\%$       | $\frac{9}{46 + 9} = 16.4\%$          |
| $\frac{\text{Gross profit}}{\text{Sales}}$ | $\frac{45}{250} = 18\%$             | $\frac{35}{201} = 17.4\%$            |
| $\frac{\text{PBIT}}{\text{Sales}}$         | $\frac{10}{250} \times 100\% = 4\%$ | $\frac{9}{201} \times 100\% = 4.5\%$ |

**Long- and short-term liquidity**

|  |                                     |                                      |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| $\frac{\text{Current assets}}{\text{Current liabilities}}$ | $\frac{55}{25} = 2.2$               | $\frac{43}{24} = 1.8$                |
| $\frac{\text{Long-term liabilities}}{\text{Equity}}$       | $\frac{13}{59} \times 100\% = 22\%$ | $\frac{9}{46} \times 100\% = 19.6\%$ |

These ratios raise a number of questions.

**Use of ratios**

- (i) **Gross profit margin** has **risen**, while **operating profit margin** and **return on capital employed** have **fallen**. Possible problems with **control of overheads**?
- (ii) **Short-term liquidity** has **improved**, but **gearing** has **deteriorated**. Is the company using long-term loans to finance expansion? The company has **expanded**, both in revenue and non-current assets.
- (iii) **Standard ratios** are a useful tool, but must be discussed in relation to the **specific circumstances of the company**.
  - (1) The **impact of the increase in production** through the **acquisition** of the **competitor company** and the **regeneration** of **old plants** needs to be taken into account when considering revenue and non-current asset ratios and other comments in the report.
  - (2) When considering profit ratios, the **effectiveness of the cost control programme** might be assessed.
- (iv) As well as **year on year comparison**, a report on business performance might usefully **compare actual performance against targets**. To enhance the usefulness of the information, the targets should be industry specific, measurable and realistic.
  - (1) The targets set for growth in retained earnings are 20% for 20X2 and between 20% to 25% thereafter. Reporting on actual performance would be informative.
  - (2) An objective is to generate the growth by the introduction of new products and improved efficiency. The actual performance in these areas might also be worthy of comment.
- (v) The discussion of **business performance** also takes into consideration the **risks** that the business faces. In the context of Mineral, such a discussion would cover:
  - (1) The proposed \$40m **expenditure on research and development and investment in non-current assets**. Are the directors justified in assuming the **predicted growth** in **retained earnings** that this **large expenditure** is meant to bring about?
  - (2) The **joint project** to develop a new aluminium car body will be very lucrative if successful, but is the risk v return decision appropriate?
  - (3) The company's pricing strategy and projected increase in demand should be discussed.
- (vi) **Knowledge management** is also an important issue where new processes and products are being developed.
- (vii) As modern investors become more sophisticated, they are also likely to want to learn about the company's **strategic objectives** including the maintenance and development of **income and profit streams**, future projects and capital expenditure projects.



(b) **Analysis of the financial position**

- (i) Annual reports should contain a review of the company's **financing arrangements** and **financial position** as well as a review of its **operating activities**.
- (ii) In the case of Mineral plc, such a review is likely to note that:
  - (1) **Gearing has increased, but it is still low**, so the expenditure on research and development could be financed by borrowing, if not by retained earnings.
  - (2) Of the long-term loans of \$13m, debentures of \$4m could be converted into shares or redeemed.
  - (3) Should the debentures be **converted**, the **existing shareholders' interest will be diluted**, and they should be made aware of this.
  - (4) Current assets are comfortably in excess of current liabilities (by \$30m), so the company should have little problem in redeeming the debentures.
- (iii) The report will need to disclose information about the **treasury management policies** of the company. This would cover such issues as the potential adverse movement in **foreign exchange risk** and details of the use of **financial instruments** for **hedging**.
- (iv) **Currency risk and interest rate risk** need to be **managed and minimised**, and the report needs to disclose the **company's approach** for dealing with this.
- (v) **Credit risk** is also an **important issue**, particularly as the company operates in the **global market place**.
- (vi) A **statement of cash flows** will be provided as part of the financial statements, but the annual report should also indicate the **maturity profile of borrowings**.
- (vii) Finally, the financial analysis might benefit from the use of techniques such as **SWOT analysis**, covering **potential liquidity problems** and **market growth**. Reference would be made to the **cartel** of car manufacturers aiming to prevent the increased use of aluminium in the car industry.

(c) **Nature of corporate citizenship**

- (i) Increasingly businesses are expected to be **socially responsible as well as profitable**.
- (ii) **Strategic decisions** by businesses, particularly global businesses nearly always have wider **social consequences**. It could be argued, as Henry Mintzberg does, that a company produces two outputs:
  - (1) Goods and services
  - (2) The social consequences of its activities, such as pollution.
- (iii) One **major development** in the area of corporate citizenship is the **environmental report**.
  - (1) This is not a legal requirement, but a large number of UK FTSE 100 companies produce them.
  - (2) Worldwide there are around 20 award schemes for environmental reporting, notably the ACCA's.
- (iv) Mineral shows that it is responsible with regard to the environment by disclosing the following information.
  - (1) The use of the **eco-productivity index** in the financial performance of sites and divisions. This **links environmental and financial performance**
  - (2) The **regeneration of old plants**
  - (3) The development of **eco-friendly cars**. Particularly impressive, if successful, is the project to develop a new aluminium alloy car body. Aluminium is rust-free, and it is also lighter, which would reduce fuel consumption.

- (v) Another environmental issue which the company could consider is **emission levels** from factories. Many companies now **include details** of this in their **environmental report**.
- (vi) The other main aspect of corporate citizenship where Mineral plc scores highly is in its **treatment of its workforce**. The company sees the workforce as the **key factor** in the **growth** of its business. The car industry had a reputation in the past for **restrictive practices**, and the annual report could usefully discuss the extent to which these have been eliminated.
- (vii) **Employees** of a businesses are **stakeholders** in that business, along with shareholders and customers. A company wishing to demonstrate good corporate citizenship will therefore be concerned with **employee welfare**. Accordingly, the annual report might usefully contain information on details of **working hours**, **industrial accidents** and **sickness of employees**.
- (viii) In conclusion, it can be seen that the annual report can, and should go **far beyond the financial statements** and traditional ratio analysis.

## 4 Human resource accounting

### FAST FORWARD

Human resource accounting is an approach which regards **people as assets**.

### 4.1 Introduction

Human resource accounting has at its core the principle that **employees are assets**. Competitive advantage is largely gained by **effective use of people**.

### 4.2 Implications of regarding people as organisational assets

- (a) **People are a resource** which needs to be carefully and efficiently managed with overriding concern for organisational objectives.
- (b) The organisation needs to **protect its investment** by retaining, safeguarding and developing its human assets.
- (c) **Deterioration in the attitudes and motivation** of employees, increases in labour turnover (followed by costs of hiring and training replacements) are **costs to the company** – even though a 'liquidation' of human assets, brought about by certain managerial styles, may produce short-term increases in profit.
- (d) A concept developed some time ago was that of **human asset accounting** (the inclusion of human assets in the financial reporting system of the organisation).



### Case Study

There are difficulties in isolating and measuring human resources, and it is also hard to forecast the time period (and area of business) over which benefits will be received from expenditure on human assets. *Texas Instruments* uses a system which identifies potential replacement costs for groups of people, taking into account the learning time required by the replacement, and the individual's salary during that period.

## 4.3 Intellectual assets

### FAST FORWARD

There are **problems in putting a value on people** which traditional accounting has yet to overcome.

Because of the difficulties found in both theory and practice, the concept of **human assets was broadened and became intellectual assets**. Intellectual assets, or 'intellectual capital' as they are sometimes called can be divided into three main types.

- (a) **External assets.** These include the reputation of brands and franchises and the strength of customer relationships.
- (b) **Internal assets.** These include patents, trademarks and information held in customer databases.
- (c) **Competencies.** These reflect the capabilities and skills of individuals.

'Intellectual assets' thus includes 'human assets'.

The value of intellectual assets will continue to rise and will represent an increasing proportion of the value of most companies. Whether or not traditional accounting will be able to measure them, remains to be seen.

## Chapter Roundup

- Although not compulsory, **environmental reports** are becoming increasingly important. You should distinguish
  - Items that **affect the financial statements** (eg IAS 37)
  - Items that **affect the environmental report**
- The Global Reporting Initiative arose from the need to **address the failure of the current governance structures to respond to changes in the global economy**.
- The **stakeholder** view holds that there are many groups in society with an interest in the organisation's activities. Some firms have objectives for these issues. Some argue, however, that a business's only objective should be to make money: the State, representing the public interest, can levy taxes to spend on socially desirable projects or can regulate organisational activities.
- **Human resource accounting** is an approach which regards **people as assets**.
- There are **problems in putting a value on people** which traditional accounting has yet to overcome.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 Give an example of an environmental audit.
- 2 Name four areas of company accounts where environmental matters may be reported.
- 3 If a site is contaminated, a provision must be made. *True or False?*
- 4 What objectives might a company have in relation to wider society?
- 5 To whom might management have responsibilities, and what are some of these responsibilities?
- 6 Why does Mintzberg say that the profit motive is not enough?
- 7 What is the basic principle of human resource accounting?
- 8 Give three examples of intellectual assets.

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 In 1999 KPMG conducted an audit of the greenhouse gas emissions of BP Amoco.
- 2 Contingent liabilities  
Exceptional charges  
Operating and financial review comments  
Profit and capital expenditure forecasts
- 3 False. an obligation must be established.
- 4 Protection of the environment, support for good causes, a responsible attitude to product safety.
- 5 Managers of businesses are responsible to the owners for economic performance and to wider society for the externalities related to their business operations.
- 6 Large businesses are rarely controlled by their shareholders; they receive a lot of support from public funds; and their activities have wider consequences.
- 7 Employees are assets.
- 8 External assets  
Internal assets  
Competencies

Now try the question below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level        | Marks | Time |
|--------|--------------|-------|------|
| Q3     | Introductory | n/a   | n/a  |



# Accounting standards





## Non-current assets

| Topic list                       | Syllabus reference |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 The definition of an asset     | C2                 |
| 2 Revision of IASs 16, 20 and 23 | C2                 |
| 3 IAS 36 Impairment of assets    | C2                 |
| 4 IAS 40 Investment property     | C2                 |
| 5 IAS 38 Intangible assets       | C2                 |
| 6 Goodwill                       | C2, D1             |

### Introduction

We look again here at the **IASB definition of an asset**, as given in the *Framework* and compare it with the definitions given by other standard setters, particularly FASB in the USA and the ASB in the UK.

You have covered several of the relevant standards relating to non-current assets in your earlier studies. These are straightforward and are revised briefly in Section 2, with some questions for you to try. If you have any problems, **go back to your earlier study material**.

The IASB has a standard covering the **impairment of assets**. This is a controversial topic and you must understand the relevant standard. **IAS 36** is discussed in depth in Section 3.

**IAS 40 on investment property** is discussed in detail in Section 4.

We begin our examination of intangible non-current assets with a discussion of **IAS 38**.

**Goodwill** and its treatment is a controversial area, as is the accounting for items similar to goodwill, such as brands. Goodwill is very important in **group accounts**.

## Study guide

|     |   | Intellectual level |
|-----|---|--------------------|
| C2  | <b>Non-current assets</b>   |                    |
| (a) | Apply and discuss the timing of the recognition of non-current assets and the determination of their carrying amounts, including impairments and revaluations | 3                  |
| (c) | Apply and discuss accounting treatment of investment properties including classification, recognition and measurement issues                                  | 3                  |

## Exam guide

The approach of Paper P2 to accounting standards is very different from your earlier studies. You will need to think critically and deal with controversial issues. Ensure that you visit the IASB website on a regular basis.

On intangibles, you may be given an unusual situation and asked to identify the issues. Is a football player an intangible asset?

## 1 The definition of an asset

### FAST FORWARD

You must learn the IASB *Framework* **definition of an asset**: a resource controlled by the entity as a result of past events and from which future economic benefits are expected to flow to the entity.

This definition ties in closely with the definitions produced by **other standard-setters**, particularly FASB (USA) and ASB (UK).

Assets have been defined in many different ways and for many purposes. The definition of an asset is important because it directly affects the **treatment** of such items. A good definition will prevent abuse or error in the accounting treatment: otherwise some assets might be treated as expenses, and some expenses might be treated as assets.

Let us begin with a simple definition from the CIMA *Official Terminology*.

### Key term

An **asset** is any tangible or intangible possession which has value.

This admirably succinct definition seems to cover the main points: **ownership** and **value**. An asset is so called because it is owned by someone who values it. However, this definition leaves several questions unanswered.

- (a) What determines ownership?
- (b) What determines value?

Such a simple definition is not adequate in the current accounting climate, where complex transactions are carried out daily.

### 1.1 IASB definition

Remember the definition of an asset in the IASB's *Conceptual Framework*.

### Key term

**Asset.** A resource controlled by the entity as a result of past events and from which future economic benefits are expected to flow to the entity.  
(*Conceptual Framework*)

Let us also look at one or two other definitions from other standard-setters.

## 1.2 Accounting Standards Board (ASB): UK

In the ASB's *Statement of Principles*, Chapter 3 *The Elements of Financial Statements* assets are defined as follows.

### Key term

**Assets** are rights or other access to future economic benefits controlled by an entity as a result of past transactions or events.

The *Statement* goes on to discuss various aspects of this definition, and it is broadly consistent with the IASB's *Framework*. The *Statement* then goes further in discussing the complementary nature of assets and liabilities.

## 1.3 Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB): USA

The definition given by the FASB in its *Statement of Concepts* is very similar.

### Key term

**Assets** are probable future economic benefits obtained or controlled by a particular entity as a result of past transactions or events.

'Probable' is given in its general meaning merely to reflect the fact that no future outcome can be predicted with total certainty.

## 1.4 Comparison of definitions

### FAST FORWARD

The definition has three important characteristics:

- **Future economic benefit**
- **Control (ownership)**
- **Transaction to acquire control has taken place**

It is clear from what we have seen so far that a general consensus seems to exist in the standard setting bodies as to the definition of an asset. That definition encompasses the following:

- Future economic benefit
- Control (ownership)
- The transaction to acquire control has already taken place

## 1.5 Definition of a non-current asset

Non-current assets may be defined as follows.

### Key term

A **non-current asset** is one intended for use on a continuing basis in the company's activities, ie it is not intended for resale.

## 2 Revision of IASs 16, 20 and 23

12/08

### FAST FORWARD

You should already be familiar with many standards relating to **non-current assets** from earlier studies. If not, go back to your earlier study material.

- IAS 16 *Property, plant and equipment*
- IAS 20 *Accounting for government grants and disclosure of government assistance*
- IAS 23 *Borrowing costs*

You have studied these standards for earlier papers, but they are fairly straightforward. Read the summary of knowledge brought forward and try the relevant questions. If you have any difficulty, go back to your earlier study material and re-read it.

IASs studied in earlier papers will probably not be examined in any depth in Paper 2, but you will be expected to know the principles of the standards. In particular, it would not look very good if you mentioned something in the exam which actually contradicted any of these standards.

## 2.1 IAS 16 Property, plant and equipment

Knowledge brought forward from earlier studies

### IAS 16 *Property, plant and equipment*

#### *Definitions*

- **Property, plant and equipment** are tangible assets with the following properties.
  - Held by an entity for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes
  - Expected to be used during more than one period
- **Cost** is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire an asset at the time of its acquisition or construction.
- **Residual value** is the estimated amount that an entity would currently obtain from disposal of the asset, after deducting the estimated costs of disposal, if the asset were already of the age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.
- **Fair value** the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.
- **Carrying amount** is the amount at which an asset is recognised after deducting any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

#### *Accounting treatment*

- As with all assets, **recognition** depends on two criteria.
  - It is probable that **future economic benefits** associated with the item will flow to the entity
  - The cost of the item can be **measured reliably**
- These recognition criteria apply to **subsequent expenditure** as well as costs incurred initially (ie, there are no longer separate criteria for recognising subsequent expenditure).
- Once recognised as an asset, items should **initially be measured at cost**.
  - **Purchase price**, less trade discount/rebate
  - **Directly attributable costs** of bringing the asset to working condition for intended use
  - **Initial estimate** of the **costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site** on which it is located.

The revised IAS 16 provides additional guidance on directly attributable costs included in the cost of an item of property, plant and equipment.

- (a) These costs bring the asset to the location and working condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management, including those costs to test whether the asset is functioning properly.
- (b) These are determined after deducting the net proceeds from selling any items produced when bringing the asset to its location and condition.

The revised standard also states that income and related expenses of operations that are incidental to the construction or development of an item of property, plant and equipment should be recognised in the profit or loss.

The revised IAS 16 specifies that exchanges of items of property, plant and equipment, regardless of whether the assets are similar, are measured at fair value, unless the exchange transaction lacks commercial substance or the fair value of neither of the assets exchanged can be measured reliably. If the acquired item is not measured at fair value, its cost is measured at the carrying amount of the asset given up.

This amends the previous requirement to measure the cost of the asset acquired at the carrying amount of the asset given up in respect of the following exchanges:

- An acquisition of an item of property, plant and equipment in exchange for a similar asset that has a similar use in the same line of business and a similar fair value; and
- A sale of an item of property, plant and equipment in exchange for an equity interest in a similar asset. **Expenditure incurred in replacing or renewing a component** of an item of property, plant and equipment must be **recognised in the carrying amount of the item**. The carrying amount of the replaced or renewed component asset shall be derecognised. A similar approach is also applied when a separate component of an item of property, plant and equipment is identified in respect of a major inspection to enable the continued use of the item.
- **Measurement subsequent to initial recognition.**
  - **Cost model:** carry asset at cost less depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses
  - **Revaluation model:** carry asset at revalued amount, ie fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. (The revised IAS 16 makes clear that the revaluation model is available only if the fair value of the item can be measured reliably.)
- **Revaluations.**
  - Carry out regularly, depending on volatility
  - Fair value is usually market value, or depreciated replacement cost
  - If one asset is revalued, so must be the whole of the rest of the class at the same time
  - Increase in value is credited to a revaluation surplus (part of owners' equity)
  - Decrease is an expense in profit or loss after cancelling a previous revaluation surplus
  - Additional disclosure required
- **Depreciation and revaluations.**
  - Depreciation is based on the carrying value in the statement of financial position. It must be determined separately for each significant part of an item.
  - Excess over historical cost depreciation can be transferred to realised earnings through reserves.
  - The residual value and useful life of an asset, as well as the depreciation method must be reviewed at least at each financial year end, rather than periodically as per the previous version of IAS 16. Changes are changes in accounting estimates and are accounted for prospectively as adjustments to future depreciation.
  - Depreciation of an item does not cease when it becomes temporarily idle or is retired from active use and held for disposal.
- **Retirements and disposals:** gains or losses are calculated by comparing net proceeds with carrying amount of the asset and are recognised as income/expense in profit or loss.

A further point worth emphasising here is the relationship between the accounting treatment of **impairments and revaluations**.

- (a) An **impairment loss** should be treated in the same way as a **revaluation decrease**, ie the decrease should be recognised as an expense. However, a revaluation decrease (or impairment loss) should be charged directly against any related revaluation surplus to the extent that the decrease does not exceed the amount held in the revaluation surplus in respect of that same asset.
- (b) A **reversal of an impairment loss** should be treated in the same way as a **revaluation increase**, ie a revaluation increase should be recognised as income to the extent that it reverses a revaluation decrease or an impairment loss of the same asset previously recognised as an expense.



## Question

## Depreciation

What are the purposes of providing for depreciation?

## Answer

The accounts of a business try to recognise that the cost of a non-current asset is gradually consumed as the asset wears out. This is done by gradually writing off the asset's cost in profit or loss over several accounting periods. This process is known as depreciation, and is an example of the accrual assumption. Depreciation should be allocated on a systematic basis to each accounting period during the useful life of the asset.

With regard to the accrual principle, it is fair that the profits should be reduced by the depreciation charge, this is not an arbitrary exercise. Depreciation is not, as is sometimes supposed, an attempt to set aside funds to purchase new long-term assets when required. Depreciation is not generally provided on freehold land because it does not 'wear out' (unless it is held for mining).

### 2.1.1 Measurement subsequent to initial recognition

The standard offers two possible treatments here, essentially a choice between keeping an asset recorded at **cost** or revaluing it to **fair value**.

- (a) **Cost model.** Carry the asset at its cost less depreciation and any accumulated impairment loss.
- (b) **Revaluation model.** Carry the asset at a revalued amount, being its fair value at the date of the revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses. The revised IAS 16 makes clear that the **revaluation model is available only if the fair value of the item can be measured reliably**.

### 2.1.2 Revaluations

The **market value** of land and buildings usually represents fair value, assuming existing use and line of business. Such valuations are usually carried out by professionally qualified valuers.

In the case of **plant and equipment**, fair value can also be taken as **market value**. Where a market value is not available, however, depreciated replacement cost should be used. There may be no market value where types of plant and equipment are sold only rarely or because of their specialised nature (ie they would normally only be sold as part of an ongoing business).

The frequency of valuation depends on the **volatility of the fair values** of individual items of property, plant and equipment. The more volatile the fair value, the more frequently revaluations should be carried out. Where the current fair value is very different from the carrying value then a revaluation should be carried out.

Most importantly, when an item of property, plant and equipment is revalued, **the whole class of assets to which it belongs should be revalued**.

All the items within a class should be **revalued at the same time**, to prevent selective revaluation of certain assets and to avoid disclosing a mixture of costs and values from different dates in the financial statements. A rolling basis of revaluation is allowed if the revaluations are kept up to date and the revaluation of the whole class is completed in a short period of time.

How should any **increase in value** be treated when a revaluation takes place? The debit will be the increase in value in the statement of financial position, but what about the credit? IAS 16 requires the increase to be credited to a **revaluation surplus** (ie part of owners' equity), *unless* the increase is reversing a previous decrease which was recognised as an expense. To the extent that this offset is made, the increase is recognised as income; any excess is then taken to the revaluation reserve.

### 2.1.3 Example: revaluation surplus

Binkie Co has an item of land carried in its books at \$13,000. Two years ago a slump in land values led the company to reduce the carrying value from \$15,000. This was taken as an expense in profit or loss for the year. There has been a surge in land prices in the current year, however, and the land is now worth \$20,000.

Account for the revaluation in the current year.

#### Solution

The double entry is:

|        |   |         |         |
|--------|---|---------|---------|
| DEBIT  | Asset value (statement of financial position) | \$7,000 |         |
| CREDIT | Profit or loss for the year                   |         | \$2,000 |
|        | Revaluation surplus                           |         | \$5,000 |

The case is similar for a **decrease in value** on revaluation. Any decrease should be recognised as an expense, except where it offsets a previous increase taken as a revaluation surplus in owners' equity. Any decrease greater than the previous upwards increase in value must be taken as an expense in profit or loss for the year.

### 2.1.4 Example: revaluation decrease

Let us simply swap round the example given above. The original cost was \$15,000, revalued upwards to \$20,000 two years ago. The value has now fallen to \$13,000.

Account for the decrease in value.

#### Solution

The double entry is:

|        |   |         |         |
|--------|---|---------|---------|
| DEBIT  | Revaluation surplus                           | \$5,000 |         |
| DEBIT  | Profit or loss for the year                   | \$2,000 |         |
| CREDIT | Asset value (statement of financial position) |         | \$7,000 |

There is a further complication when a **revalued asset is being depreciated**. As we have seen, an upward revaluation means that the depreciation charge will increase. Normally, a revaluation surplus is only realised when the asset is sold, but when it is being depreciated, part of that surplus is being realised as the asset is used. The amount of the surplus realised is the difference between depreciation charged on the revalued amount and the (lower) depreciation which would have been charged on the asset's original cost. **This amount can be transferred to retained (ie realised) earnings but *not* through profit or loss.**

### 2.1.5 Example: revaluation and depreciation

Crinkle Co bought an asset for \$10,000 at the beginning of 20X6. It had a useful life of five years. On 1 January 20X8 the asset was revalued to \$12,000. The expected useful life has remained unchanged (ie three years remain).

Account for the revaluation and state the treatment for depreciation from 20X8 onwards.

## Solution

On 1 January 20X8 the carrying value of the asset is  $\$10,000 - (2 \times \$10,000 \div 5) = \$6,000$ . For the revaluation:

|        |   |         |         |
|--------|---|---------|---------|
| DEBIT  | Asset value (statement of financial position) | \$6,000 |         |
| CREDIT | Revaluation surplus                           |         | \$6,000 |

The depreciation for the next three years will be  $\$12,000 \div 3 = \$4,000$ , compared to depreciation on cost of  $\$10,000 \div 5 = \$2,000$ . So each year, the extra \$2,000 can be treated as part of the surplus which has become realised:

|        |                     |         |         |
|--------|---------------------|---------|---------|
| DEBIT  | Revaluation surplus | \$2,000 |         |
| CREDIT | Retained earnings   |         | \$2,000 |

This is a movement on owners' equity only, not through profit or loss.

### 2.1.6 On disposal

When a revalued asset is **disposed** of, any revaluation surplus may be **transferred directly to retained earnings**.

Alternatively, it may be **left in equity** under the heading revaluation surplus.

The transfer to retained earnings **should not be made through profit or loss for the year**. In other words it must not be made as a reclassification adjustment ('recycling').

## 2.2 IAS 20: Government grants

IAS 20 is very straightforward. The question after the following summary covers the accounting problem it tackled.

Knowledge brought forward from earlier studies

### IAS 20 *Accounting for government grants and disclosure of government assistance*

#### *Definitions*

- **Government assistance.** Action by government designed to provide an economic benefit specific to an entity or range of entities qualifying under certain criteria.
- **Government grants.** Assistance by government in the form of transfers of resources to an entity in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the operating activities of the entity. They exclude those forms of government assistance which cannot reasonably have a value placed upon them and transactions with government which cannot be distinguished from the normal trading transactions of the entity.
- **Grants related to assets.** Government grants whose primary condition is that an entity qualifying for them should purchase, construct or otherwise acquire long-term assets. Subsidiary conditions may also be attached restricting the type or location of the assets or the periods during which they are to be acquired or held.
- **Grants related to income.** Government grants other than those related to assets.
- **Forgivable loans.** Loans which the lender undertakes to waive repayment of under certain prescribed conditions.



### Accounting treatment

- **Recognise government grants and forgivable loans** once conditions complied with and receipt/waiver is assured.
- Grants are recognised under the **income approach**: recognise grants as income to match them with related costs that they have been received to compensate.
- Use a **systematic basis** of matching over the relevant periods.
- Grants for **depreciable assets** should be recognised as income on the same basis as the asset is depreciated.
- Grants for **non-depreciable assets** should be recognised as income over the periods in which the cost of meeting the obligation is incurred.
- A grant may be **split into parts** and allocated on different bases where there are a series of conditions attached.
- Where **related costs have already been incurred**, the grant may be recognised as income in full immediately.
- A grant in the form of a **non-monetary asset** may be valued at fair value or a nominal value.
- **Grants related to assets** may be presented in the statement of financial position *either* as **deferred income** *or* deducted in arriving at the carrying value of the asset.
- **Grants related to income** may be presented in profit or loss for the year *either* as a **separate credit** *or* **deducted** from the related expense.
- Repayment of government grants should be accounted for as a **revision of an accounting estimate**.

### Disclosure

- **Accounting policy** note.
- **Nature and extent** of government grants and other forms of assistance received.
- **Unfulfilled conditions** and other contingencies attached to recognised government assistance.



### Question

### Government grants

IAS 20 suggests that there are two approaches to recognising government grants: a capital approach (credit directly to shareholders' interests) and an income approach. IAS 20 requires the use of the income approach, but what are the arguments in support of each method?

### Answer

IAS 20 gives the following arguments in support of each method.

#### Capital approach

- The grants are a **financing device**, so should go through profit or loss for the year they would simply offset the expenses which they are financing. No repayment is expected by the Government, so the grants should be credited directly to shareholders' interests.
- Grants are **not earned**, they are incentives without related costs, so it would be wrong to take them to profit or loss.

#### Income approach

- The grants are **not received from shareholders** so should not be credited directly to shareholders' interests.
- Grants are **not given or received for nothing**. They are earned by compliance with conditions and by meeting obligations. There are therefore associated costs with which the grant can be matched in profit or loss for the year as these costs are being compensated by the grant.

- (c) Grants are an extension of **fiscal policies** and so as income and other taxes are charged against income, so grants should be credited to income.

## 2.3 IAS 23 Borrowing costs

This is another straightforward standard. This time there are two calculation questions to remind you of how IAS 23 is applied.

Knowledge brought forward from earlier studies

### IAS 23 *Borrowing costs*

- IAS 23 deals with the treatment of borrowing costs, often associated with the construction of **self-constructed assets**, but which can also be applied to an asset purchased that takes time to get ready for use/sale.

#### Definitions

- Borrowing costs.** Interest and other costs incurred by an entity in connection with the borrowing of funds.
- Qualifying asset.** An asset that necessarily takes a substantial period of time to get ready for its intended use or sale.

#### Accounting treatment

- Borrowing costs must be capitalised** as part of the cost of the asset if they are directly attributable to acquisition/construction/production. **Other borrowing costs must be expensed.**
- Borrowing costs eligible for capitalisation** are those that would have been avoided otherwise. Use judgement where a range of debt instruments is held for general finance.
- Amount of borrowing costs available for capitalisation** is actual borrowing costs incurred less any investment income from temporary investment of those borrowings.
- For borrowings obtained generally, apply the **capitalisation rate** to the expenditure on the asset (weighted average borrowing cost). It must not exceed actual borrowing costs.
- Capitalisation is suspended** if active development is interrupted for extended periods. (Temporary delays or technical/administrative work will not cause suspension.)
- Capitalisation ceases** (normally) when physical construction of the asset is completed, capitalisation should cease when each stage or part is completed.
- Where the carrying amount of the asset falls below cost, it must be **written down/off**.

#### Disclosure

- Accounting policy note.**
- Amount of **borrowing costs capitalised** during the period.
- Capitalisation rate** used to determine borrowing costs eligible for capitalisation.



### Question

### Borrowing costs 1

On 1 January 20X6 Rechno Co borrowed \$15m to finance the production of two assets, both of which were expected to take a year to build. Production started during 20X8. The loan facility was drawn down on 1 January 20X8, and was utilised as follows, with the remaining funds invested temporarily.

|                | Asset X | Asset Y |
|----------------|---------|---------|
|                | \$m     | \$m     |
| 1 January 20X8 | 2.5     | 5.0     |
| 1 July 20X8    | 2.5     | 5.0     |

The loan rate was 10% and Rechno Co can invest surplus funds at 8%.

### Required

Ignoring compound interest, calculate the borrowing costs which may be capitalised for each of the assets and consequently the cost of each asset as at 31 December 20X8.

### Answer

|                        |  | Asset X<br>\$'000 | Asset Y<br>\$'000 |
|------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Borrowing costs        |  |                   |                   |
| To 31 December 20X8    | $\$5.0\text{m}/\$10\text{m} \times 10\%$             | 500               | 1000              |
| Less investment income |  |                   |                   |
| To 30 June 20X8        | $\$2.5\text{m}/\$5.0\text{m} \times 8\% \times 6/12$ | (100)             | (200)             |
|                        |  | <u>400</u>        | <u>800</u>        |
| Cost of assets         |  |                   |                   |
| Expenditure incurred   |  | 5,000             | 10,000            |
| Borrowing costs        |  | 400               | 800               |
|                        |  | <u>5,400</u>      | <u>10,800</u>     |



### Question

### Borrowing costs 2

Zenzi Co had the following loans in place at the beginning and end of 20X8.

|                                | 1 January<br>20X8<br>\$m | 31 December<br>20X8<br>\$m |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 10.0% Bank loan repayable 20Y3 | 120                      | 120                        |
| 9.5% Bank loan repayable 20Y1  | 80                       | 80                         |
| 8.9% debenture repayable 20Y8  | —                        | 150                        |

The 8.9% debenture was issued to fund the construction of a qualifying asset (a piece of mining equipment), construction of which began on 1 July 20X8.

On 1 January 20X8, Zenzi Co began construction of a qualifying asset, a piece of machinery for a hydro-electric plant, using existing borrowings. Expenditure drawn down for the construction was: \$30m on 1 January 20X8, \$20m on 1 October 20X8.

### Required

Calculate the borrowing costs to be capitalised for the hydro-electric plant machine.

### Answer

$$\text{Capitalisation rate} = \text{weighted average rate} = \left(10\% \times \frac{120}{120+80}\right) + \left(9.5\% \times \frac{80}{120+80}\right) = 9.8\%$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Borrowing costs} &= (\$30\text{m} \times 9.8\%) + (\$20\text{m} \times 9.8\% \times 3/12) \\ &= \$3.43\text{m}\end{aligned}$$

## 3 IAS 36 Impairment of assets

12/07, 12/11

### FAST FORWARD

IAS 36 *Impairment of assets* covers a controversial topic and it affects goodwill as well as tangible long-term assets.

There is an established principle that assets should not be carried at above their recoverable amount. An entity should write down the carrying value of an asset to its recoverable amount if the carrying value of an asset is not recoverable in full. It puts in place a detailed methodology for carrying out impairment reviews and related accounting treatments and disclosures.

### 3.1 Scope

IAS 36 applies to all tangible, intangible and financial assets except inventories, assets arising from construction contracts, deferred tax assets, assets arising under IAS 19 *Employee benefits* and financial assets within the scope of IAS 32 *Financial instruments: presentation*. This is because those IASs already have rules for recognising and measuring impairment. Note also that IAS 36 does not apply to non-current assets held for sale, which are dealt with under IFRS 5 *Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations*.

#### Key terms

**Impairment:** a fall in the value of an asset, so that its 'recoverable amount' is now less than its carrying value in the statement of financial position.

**Carrying amount:** is the net value at which the asset is included in the statement of financial position (ie after deducting accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses). (IAS 36)

The basic principle underlying IAS 36 is relatively straightforward. If an asset's value in the accounts is higher than its realistic value, measured as its 'recoverable amount', the asset is judged to have suffered an impairment loss. It should therefore be reduced in value, by the amount of the **impairment loss**. The amount of the impairment loss should be **written off against profit** immediately.

The main accounting issues to consider are therefore as follows.

- (a) How is it possible to **identify when** an impairment loss may have occurred?
- (b) How should the **recoverable amount** of the asset be measured?
- (c) How should an 'impairment loss' be **reported in the accounts**?

### 3.2 Identifying a potentially impaired asset

An entity should carry out a **review of its assets at each year end**, to assess whether there are any indications of impairment to any assets. The concept of **materiality** applies, and only material impairment needs to be identified.

If there are indications of possible impairment, the entity is required to make a formal estimate of the **recoverable amount** of the assets concerned.

IAS 36 suggests how **indications of a possible impairment** of assets might be recognised. The suggestions are based largely on common sense.

- (a) **External sources of information**
  - (i) A fall in the asset's market value that is more significant than would normally be expected from passage of time over normal use.
  - (ii) A significant change in the technological, market, legal or economic environment of the business in which the assets are employed.
  - (iii) An increase in market interest rates or market rates of return on investments likely to affect the discount rate used in calculating value in use.
  - (iv) The carrying amount of the entity's net assets being more than its market capitalisation.
- (b) **Internal sources of information:** evidence of obsolescence or physical damage, adverse changes in the use to which the asset is put, or the asset's economic performance

Even if there are no indications of impairment, the following assets must **always** be tested for impairment annually.

- (a) An intangible asset with an **indefinite useful life**
- (b) **Goodwill** acquired in a business combination

### 3.3 Measuring the recoverable amount of the asset

#### FAST FORWARD

Impairment is determined by comparing the carrying amount of the asset with its **recoverable amount**. The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of the asset's **fair value less costs of disposal** and its **value in use**.

What is an asset's recoverable amount?

#### Key term

The **recoverable amount of an asset** should be measured as the *higher value* of:

- (a) the asset's fair value less costs of disposal; and
- (b) its value in use.

(IAS 36)

An asset's fair value less costs of disposal is the amount net of selling costs that could be obtained from the sale of the asset. Selling costs include sales transaction costs, such as legal expenses.

- (a) If there is an **active market** in the asset, the net selling price should be based on the **market value**, or on the price of recent transactions in similar assets.
- (b) If there is **no active market** in the assets it might be possible to **estimate** a net selling price using best estimates of what market participants might pay in an orderly at the measurement date.

Net selling price **cannot** be reduced, however, by including within selling costs any **restructuring or reorganisation expenses**, or any costs that have already been recognised in the accounts as liabilities.

The concept of 'value in use' is very important.

#### Key term

The **value in use** of an asset is measured as the present value of estimated future cash flows (inflows minus outflows) generated by the asset, including its estimated net disposal value (if any) at the end of its expected useful life.

The cash flows used in the calculation should be **pre-tax cash flows** and a **pre-tax discount rate** should be applied to calculate the present value.

The calculation of **value in use** must reflect the following.

- (a) An estimate of the **future cash flows** the entity expects to derive from the asset
- (b) Expectations about **possible variations** in the amount and timing of future cash flows
- (c) The **time value of money**
- (d) The price for bearing the **uncertainty** inherent in the asset, and
- (e) **Other factors** that would be reflected in pricing future cash flows from the asset

Calculating a value in use therefore calls for estimates of future cash flows, and the possibility exists that an entity might come up with **over-optimistic estimates** of cash flows. The IAS therefore states the following.

- (a) Cash flow projections should be based on '**reasonable and supportable**' assumptions.
- (b) Projections of cash flows, normally up to a maximum period of five years, should be based on the most **recent budgets or financial forecasts**.
- (c) Cash flow projections beyond this period should be obtained by extrapolating short-term projections, using either a **steady or declining growth rate** for each subsequent year (unless a rising growth rate can be justified). The long-term growth rate applied should not exceed the average long term growth rate for the product, market, industry or country, unless a higher growth rate can be justified.

#### 3.3.1 Composition of estimates of future cash flows

These should include the following.

- (a) Projections of **cash inflows** from **continuing use** of the asset
- (b) Projections of **cash outflows** necessarily incurred to **generate the cash inflows** from continuing use of the asset

- (c) **Net cash flows** received/paid on **disposal** of the asset at the end of its useful life

There is an underlying principle that future cash flows should be estimated for the asset in its current condition. Future cash flows relating to restructurings to which the entity is not yet committed, or to future costs to add to, replace part of, or service the asset are excluded.

Estimates of future cash flows should **exclude** the following.

- (a) Cash inflows/ outflows from financing activities
- (b) Income tax receipts/payments

The amount of net cash inflow/outflow on **disposal** of an asset should in an orderly transaction between market participants.

**Foreign currency future cash flows** should be forecast in the currency in which they will arise and will be discounted using a rule appropriate for that currency. The resulting figure should then be translated into the reporting currency at the spot rate at the year end.

The **discount rate** should be a current pre-tax rate (or rates) that reflects the current assessment of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. The discount should not include a risk weighting if the underlying cash flows have already been adjusted for risk.

### 3.4 Recognition and measurement of an impairment loss

#### FAST FORWARD

When it is not possible to calculate the recoverable amount of a single asset, then that of its **cash generating unit** should be measured instead.

The rule for assets at historical cost is:

#### Rule to learn

If the recoverable amount of an asset is lower than the carrying amount, the carrying amount should be reduced by the difference (ie the impairment loss) which should be charged as an expense in profit or loss for the year.

The rule for assets held at a revalued amount (such as property revalued under IAS 16) is:

#### Rule to learn

The impairment loss is to be treated as a revaluation decrease under the relevant IFRS/IAS.

In practice this means:

- To the extent that there is a revaluation surplus held in respect of the asset, the impairment loss should be charged to revaluation surplus.
- Any excess should be charged to profit or loss.

The IAS goes into quite a large amount of detail about the important concept of cash generating units. As a basic rule, the recoverable amount of an asset should be calculated for the **asset individually**. However, there will be occasions when it is not possible to estimate such a value for an individual asset, particularly in the calculation of value in use. This is because cash inflows and outflows cannot be attributed to the individual asset.

If it is not possible to calculate the recoverable amount for an individual asset, the recoverable amount of the asset's cash generating unit should be measured instead.

#### Key term

A **cash generating unit** is the smallest identifiable group of assets for which independent cash flows can be identified and measured.



## Question

## Cash generating unit 1

Can you think of some examples of how a cash generating unit would be identified?

## Answer

Here are two possibilities.

- (a) A mining company owns a private railway that it uses to transport output from one of its mines. The railway now has no market value other than as scrap, and it is impossible to identify any separate cash inflows with the use of the railway itself. Consequently, if the mining company suspects an impairment in the value of the railway, it should treat the mine as a whole as a cash generating unit, and measure the recoverable amount of the mine as a whole.
- (b) A bus company has an arrangement with a town's authorities to run a bus service on four routes in the town. Separately identifiable assets are allocated to each of the bus routes, and cash inflows and outflows can be attributed to each individual route. Three routes are running at a profit and one is running at a loss. The bus company suspects that there is an impairment of assets on the loss-making route. However, the company will be unable to close the loss-making route, because it is under an obligation to operate all four routes, as part of its contract with the local authority. Consequently, the company should treat all four bus routes together as a cash generating unit, and calculate the recoverable amount for the unit as a whole.



## Question

## Cash generating unit 2

Minimart belongs to a retail store chain Maximart. Minimart makes all its retail purchases through Maximart's purchasing centre. Pricing, marketing, advertising and human resources policies (except for hiring Minimart's cashiers and salesmen) are decided by Maximart. Maximart also owns five other stores in the same city as Minimart (although in different neighbourhoods) and 20 other stores in other cities. All stores are managed in the same way as Minimart. Minimart and four other stores were purchased five years ago and goodwill was recognised.

What is the cash-generating unit for Minimart?

## Answer

In identifying Minimart's cash-generating unit, an entity considers whether, for example:

- (a) Internal management reporting is organised to measure performance on a store-by-store basis.
- (b) The business is run on a store-by-store profit basis or on a region/city basis.

All Maximart's stores are in different neighbourhoods and probably have different customer bases. So, although Minimart is managed at a corporate level, Minimart generates cash inflows that are largely independent from those of Maximart's other stores. Therefore, it is likely that Minimart is a cash-generating unit.



## Question

## Cash generating unit 3

Mighty Mag Publishing Co owns 150 magazine titles of which 70 were purchased and 80 were self-created. The price paid for a purchased magazine title is recognised as an intangible asset. The costs of creating magazine titles and maintaining the existing titles are recognised as an expense when incurred. Cash inflows from direct sales and advertising are identifiable for each magazine title. Titles are managed by customer segments. The level of advertising income for a magazine title depends on the range of titles in the customer segment to which the magazine title relates. Management has a policy to abandon old titles before the end of their economic lives and replace them immediately with new titles for the same customer segment.

What is the cash-generating unit for an individual magazine title?

It is likely that the recoverable amount of an individual magazine title can be assessed. Even though the level of advertising income for a title is influenced, to a certain extent, by the other titles in the customer segment, cash inflows from direct sales and advertising are identifiable for each title. In addition, although titles are managed by customer segments, decisions to abandon titles are made on an individual title basis.

Therefore, it is likely that individual magazine titles generate cash inflows that are largely independent one from another and that each magazine title is a separate cash-generating unit.

If an active market exists for the output produced by the asset or a group of assets, this asset or group should be identified as a cash generating unit, even if some or all of the output is used internally.

Cash generating units should be identified consistently from period to period for the same type of asset unless a change is justified.

The group of net assets less liabilities that are considered for impairment should be the same as those considered in the calculation of the recoverable amount. (For the treatment of goodwill and corporate assets see below.)

### 3.5 Example: Recoverable amount and carrying amount

Fourways Co is made up of four cash generating units. All four units are being tested for impairment.

- (a) Property, plant and equipment and separate intangibles would be allocated to be cash generating units as far as possible.
- (b) Current assets such as inventories, receivables and prepayments would be allocated to the relevant cash generating units.
- (c) Liabilities (eg payables) would be deducted from the net assets of the relevant cash generating units.
- (d) The net figure for each cash generating unit resulting from this exercise would be compared to the relevant recoverable amount, computed on the same basis.

## 3.6 Goodwill and the impairment of assets

### 3.6.1 Allocating goodwill to cash-generating units

Goodwill acquired in a business combination does not generate cash flows independently of other assets. It must be **allocated** to each of the acquirer's **cash-generating units** (or groups of cash-generating units) that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination. Each unit to which the goodwill is so allocated should:

- (a) Represent the **lowest level** within the entity at which the goodwill is monitored for internal management purposes
- (b) Not be **larger than a reporting segment** determined in accordance with IFRS 8 *Operating segments*

It may be impractical to complete the allocation of goodwill before the first reporting date after a business combination, particularly if the acquirer is accounting for the combination for the first time using provisional values. The initial allocation of goodwill must be completed before the end of the first reporting period after the acquisition date.

### 3.6.2 Testing cash-generating units with goodwill for impairment

There are two situations to consider.



- (a) Where goodwill has been allocated to a cash-generating unit
- (b) Where it has not been possible to allocate goodwill to a specific cash-generating unit, but only to a group of units

A cash-generating unit to which goodwill has been allocated is tested for impairment annually. The **carrying amount** of the unit, including goodwill, is **compared with the recoverable amount**. If the carrying amount of the unit exceeds the recoverable amount, the entity must recognise an impairment loss.

If there is a **non-controlling (minority) interest** in a cash-generating unit to which goodwill has been allocated, the carrying amount of the goodwill allocated to that unit must be **grossed up** to include the goodwill attributable to the non-controlling interest. This is because the goodwill recognised in a business combination represents only the goodwill owned by the parent, not the amount of goodwill actually controlled by the parent. Part of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit is attributable to the non-controlling interest in goodwill.

Where goodwill relates to a cash-generating unit but has not been allocated to that unit, the unit is tested for impairment by **comparing its carrying amount** (excluding goodwill) **with its recoverable amount**. The entity must recognise an impairment loss if the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

The annual impairment test may be performed at any time during an accounting period, but must be performed at the **same time every year**.

### 3.7 Example: Non-controlling interest

On 1 January 20X4 a parent acquires an 80% interest in a subsidiary for \$1,600,000, when the identifiable net assets of the subsidiary are \$1,500,000. The subsidiary is a cash-generating unit.

At 31 December 20X4, the recoverable amount of the subsidiary is \$1,000,000. The carrying amount of the subsidiary's identifiable assets is \$1,350,000.

Calculate the impairment loss at 31 December 20X4.

#### Solution

At 31 December 20X4 the cash-generating unit consists of the subsidiary's identifiable net assets (carrying amount \$1,350,000) and goodwill of \$400,000 ( $1,600,000 - 80\% \times \$1,500,000$ ). Goodwill is grossed up to reflect the 20% non-controlling interest.

|                                       | <i>Goodwill</i> | <i>Net assets</i> | <i>Total</i>      |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                       | \$              | \$                | \$                |
| Carrying amount                       | 400             | 1,350             | 1,750             |
| Unrecognised non-controlling interest | <u>100</u>      |                   | <u>100</u>        |
|                                       | <u>500</u>      | <u>1,350</u>      | <u>1,850</u>      |
| Recoverable amount                    |                 |                   | (1,000)           |
| Impairment loss                       |                 |                   | <u><u>850</u></u> |

### 3.8 Corporate assets

Corporate assets are group or divisional assets such as a head office building, EDP equipment or a research centre. Essentially, corporate assets are assets that do not generate cash inflows independently from other assets, hence their carrying amount cannot be fully attributed to a cash-generating unit under review.

In testing a cash generating unit for impairment, an entity should identify all the corporate assets that relate to the cash-generating unit.

- (a) If a portion of the carrying amount of a corporate asset **can be allocated** to the unit on a reasonable and consistent basis, the entity compares the carrying amount of the unit (including the portion of the asset) with its recoverable amount.
- (b) If a portion of the carrying amount of a corporate asset **cannot be allocated** to the unit on a reasonable and consistent basis, the entity:

- (i) Compares the carrying amount of the unit (excluding the asset) with its recoverable amount and recognises any impairment loss
- (ii) Identifies the smallest group of cash-generating units that includes the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs and to which a portion of the carrying amount of the asset can be allocated on a reasonable and consistent basis
- (iii) Compares the carrying amount of that group of cash-generating units, (including the portion of the asset allocated to the group of units) with the recoverable amount of the group of units and recognises any impairment loss

### 3.9 Accounting treatment of an impairment loss

If, and only if, the recoverable amount of an asset is less than its carrying amount in the statement of financial position, an impairment loss has occurred. This loss should be **recognised immediately**.

- (a) The asset's **carrying amount** should be reduced to its recoverable amount in the statement of financial position.
- (b) The **impairment loss** should be recognised immediately in profit or loss (unless the asset has been revalued in which case the loss is treated as a revaluation decrease; see Paragraph 3.4).

After reducing an asset to its recoverable amount, the **depreciation charge** on the asset should then be based on its new carrying amount, its estimated residual value (if any) and its estimated remaining useful life.

An impairment loss should be recognised for a **cash generating unit** if (and only if) the recoverable amount for the cash generating unit is less than the carrying amount in the statement of financial position for all the assets in the unit. When an impairment loss is recognised for a cash generating unit, the loss should be allocated between the assets in the unit in the following order.

- (a) First, to the **goodwill** allocated to the cash generating unit
- (b) Then to all other assets in the cash-generating unit, on a **pro rata basis**

In allocating an impairment loss, the carrying amount of an asset should not be reduced below the highest of:

- (a) Its fair value less costs of disposal
- (b) Its value in use (if determinable)
- (c) Zero

Any remaining amount of an impairment loss should be recognised as a liability if required by other IASs.

### 3.10 Example 1: Impairment loss

A company that extracts natural gas and oil has a drilling platform in the Caspian Sea. It is required by legislation of the country concerned to remove and dismantle the platform at the end of its useful life. Accordingly, the company has included an amount in its accounts for removal and dismantling costs, and is depreciating this amount over the platform's expected life.

The company is carrying out an exercise to establish whether there has been an impairment of the platform.

- (a) Its carrying amount in the statement of financial position is \$3m.
- (b) The company has received an offer of \$2.8m for the platform from another oil company. The bidder would take over the responsibility (and costs) for dismantling and removing the platform at the end of its life.
- (c) The present value of the estimated cash flows from the platform's continued use is \$3.3m.
- (d) The carrying amount in the statement of financial position for the provision for dismantling and removal is currently \$0.6m.

What should be the value of the drilling platform in the statement of financial position, and what, if anything, is the impairment loss?

## Solution

|                                   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Fair value less costs of disposal | = | \$2.8m   |
| Value in use                      | = | PV of cash flows from use less the carrying amount of the provision/liability = \$3.3m – \$0.6m = \$2.7m |
| Recoverable amount                | = | Higher of these two amounts, ie \$2.8m   |
| Carrying value                    | = | \$3m   |
| Impairment loss                   | = | \$0.2m   |

The carrying value should be reduced to \$2.8m

### 3.11 Example 2: Impairment loss

A company has acquired another business for \$4.5m: tangible assets are valued at \$4.0m and goodwill at \$0.5m.

An asset with a carrying value of \$1m is destroyed in a terrorist attack. The asset was not insured. The loss of the asset, without insurance, has prompted the company to estimate whether there has been an impairment of assets in the acquired business and what the amount of any such loss is. The recoverable amount of the business is measured at \$3.1m.

## Solution

The recoverable amount of the business (a single cash generating unit) is measured as \$3.1m. There has consequently been an impairment loss of \$1.4m (\$4.5m – \$3.1m).

The impairment loss will be recognised in profit or loss. The loss will be allocated between the assets in the cash generating unit as follows.

- (a) A loss of \$1m can be attributed directly to the uninsured asset that has been destroyed.
- (b) The remaining loss of \$0.4m should be allocated to goodwill.

The carrying value of the assets will now be \$3m for tangible assets and \$0.1m for goodwill.

### 3.12 Example: Impairment loss and revaluation

The Antimony Company acquired its head office on 1 January 20W8 at a cost of \$5.0 million (excluding land). Antimony's policy is to depreciate property on a straight-line basis over 50 years with a zero residual value.

On 31 December 20X2 (after five years of ownership) Antimony revalued the non-land element of its head office to \$8.0 million. Antimony does not transfer annual amounts out of revaluation reserves as assets are used: this is in accordance with the permitted treatment in IAS 16 *Property, plant and equipment*.

In January 20X8 localised flooding occurred and the recoverable amount of the non-land element of the head office property fell to \$2.9 million.

#### Required

What impairment charge should be recognised in the profit or loss of Antimony arising from the impairment review in January 20X8 according to IAS 36 *Impairment of assets*?

## Solution

\$0.7 million

IAS 36.60 and 61 (also IAS 16.40) require that an impairment that reverses a previous revaluation should be recognised through other comprehensive income to the extent of the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same asset. Any remaining amount is recognised through profit or loss. Thus:

- (a) The carrying amount at 31 December 20X2 is  $45/50 \times \$5.0\text{m} = \$4.5\text{m}$
- (b) The revaluation reserve created is \$3.5m (ie \$8.0m – \$4.5m)

- (c) The carrying amount at 31 December 20X7 is  $40/45 \times \$8.0\text{m} = \$7.1\text{m}$
- (d) The recoverable amount at 31 December 20X7 is \$2.9m
- (e) The total impairment charge is \$4.2m (ie  $\$7.1\text{m} - \$2.9\text{m}$ )
- (f) Of this, \$3.5m is a reversal of the revaluation reserve, so only \$0.7 million is recognised through profit or loss.

### 3.13 Reversal of an impairment loss

The annual review of assets to determine whether there may have been some impairment should be **applied to all assets**, including assets that have already been impaired in the past.

In some cases, the recoverable amount of an asset that has previously been impaired might turn out to be **higher** than the asset's current carrying value. In other words, there might have been a reversal of some of the previous impairment loss.

- (a) The reversal of the impairment loss should be **recognised immediately** as income in profit or loss for the year.
- (b) The carrying amount of the asset should be increased to its **new recoverable amount**.

#### Rule to learn

An impairment loss recognised for an asset in prior years should be recovered if, and only if, there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the asset's recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognised.

The asset cannot be revalued to a carrying amount that is higher than its value would have been if the asset had not been impaired originally, ie its **depreciated carrying value** had the impairment not taken place. Depreciation of the asset should now be based on its new revalued amount, its estimated residual value (if any) and its estimated remaining useful life.

An exception to the rule above is for **goodwill**. An impairment loss for goodwill should not be reversed in a subsequent period.



#### Question

#### Reversal of impairment loss

A cash generating unit comprising a factory, plant and equipment etc and associated purchased goodwill becomes impaired because the product it makes is overtaken by a technologically more advanced model produced by a competitor. The recoverable amount of the cash generating unit falls to \$60m, resulting in an impairment loss of \$80m, allocated as follows.

|                               | <i>Carrying amounts<br/>before impairment</i> | <i>Carrying amounts<br/>after impairment</i> |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
|                               | \$m   | \$m  |
| Goodwill                      | 40  |  |
| Patent (with no market value) | 20  |  |
| Tangible long-term assets     | 80  | 60   |
| Total                         | <u>140</u>                                    | <u>60</u>                                    |

After three years, the entity makes a technological breakthrough of its own, and the recoverable amount of the cash generating unit increases to \$90m. The carrying amount of the tangible long-term assets had the impairment not occurred would have been \$70m.

#### Required

Calculate the reversal of the impairment loss.

The reversal of the impairment loss is recognised to the extent that it increases the carrying amount of the tangible non-current assets to what it would have been had the impairment not taken place, ie a reversal of the impairment loss of \$10m is recognised and the tangible non-current assets written back to \$70m. Reversal of the impairment is not recognised in relation to the goodwill and patent because the effect of the external event that caused the original impairment has not reversed – the original product is still overtaken by a more advanced model.

### 3.14 Impairment loss and goodwill

IFRS 3 (revised) allows two methods of initially valuing the non-controlling interest in an entity:

- As a share of the net assets of the entity at the acquisition date, or
- At fair value.

The non-controlling interest is then taken into account in the goodwill calculation per the revised standard:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
|  | \$       |
| Purchase consideration                     | X        |
| Non-controlling interest                   | X        |
|  | <u>X</u> |
| Total fair value of net assets of acquiree | (X)      |
| Goodwill                                   | <u>X</u> |

This means that the resulting goodwill will represent:

- Only the parent's share of total goodwill when valuing the non-controlling interest using the proportion of net assets method
- Full goodwill (ie the parent's share plus the non-controlling interest share) when using the fair value method

Where the proportionate share of net assets method is used to value the non-controlling interest, the carrying amount of a cash generating unit therefore comprises:

- The parent and non-controlling share of the identifiable net assets of the unit
- Only the parent's share of the goodwill

Part of the calculation of the recoverable amount of the cash generating unit relates to the unrecognised share in the goodwill.

For the purpose of calculating the impairment loss, the carrying amount of the cash generating unit is therefore notionally adjusted to include the non-controlling share in the goodwill by grossing it up.

The consequent impairment loss calculated is only recognised to the extent of the parent's share.

Where the fair value method is used to value the non-controlling interest, no adjustment is required.

### 3.15 Example: Impairment loss and goodwill: partial goodwill

**Note.** If you are unsure what is meant by the terms 'partial' and 'full' goodwill, work through the revision of basic groups in [Chapter 12](#), or look back to your F7 studies.

The Acetone Company is testing for impairment two subsidiaries which have been identified as separate cash-generating units.

Some years ago Acetone acquired 80% of The Dushanbe Company for \$600,000 when the fair value of Dushanbe's identifiable assets was \$400,000. As Dushanbe's policy is to distribute all profits by way of dividend, the fair value of its identifiable net assets remained at \$400,000 on 31 December 20X7. The impairment review indicated Dushanbe's recoverable amount at 31 December 20X7 to be \$520,000.

Some years ago Acetone acquired 85% of The Maclulich Company for \$800,000 when the fair value of Maclulich's identifiable net assets was \$700,000. Goodwill of \$205,000 ( $\$800,000 - (\$700,000 \times 85\%)$ ) was recognised. As Maclulich's policy is to distribute all profits by way of dividend, the fair value of its identifiable net assets remained at \$700,000 on 31 December 20X7. The impairment review indicated Maclulich's recoverable amount at 31 December 20X7 to be \$660,000.

It is Acetone group policy to value the non-controlling interest using the proportion of net assets method.

#### Required

Determine the following amounts in respect of Acetone's consolidated financial statements at 31 December 20X7 according to IAS 36 *Impairment of assets*.

- The carrying amount of Dushanbe's assets to be compared with its recoverable amount for impairment testing purposes
- The carrying amount of goodwill in respect of Dushanbe after the recognition of any impairment loss
- The carrying amount of the non-controlling interest in Maclulich after recognition of any impairment loss.

#### Solution

- \$750,000
- \$96,000
- \$99,000

#### Workings

|     |   |                  |
|-----|---|------------------|
| (a) |   | \$               |
|     | Book value of Dushanbe's net assets   | 400,000          |
|     | Goodwill recognised on acquisition  |                  |
|     | $\$600,000 - (80\% \times \$400,000)$   | 280,000          |
|     | Notional goodwill ( $\$280,000 \times 20/80$ )  | <u>70,000</u>    |
|     |   | <u>750,000</u>   |
| (b) | The impairment loss is the total \$750,000 less the recoverable amount of \$520,000 = \$230,000. Under IAS 36 this is firstly allocated against the \$350,000 goodwill. (As the impairment loss is less than the goodwill, none is allocated against identifiable net assets.) As only the goodwill relating to Acetone is recognised, only its 80% share of the impairment loss is recognised: |                  |
|     |   | \$               |
|     | Carrying value of goodwill  | 280,000          |
|     | Impairment ( $80\% \times 230,000$ )  | <u>(184,000)</u> |
|     | Revised carrying amount of goodwill   | <u>96,000</u>    |
| (c) |   | \$               |
|     | Carrying amount of Maclulich's net assets   | 700,000          |
|     | Recognised goodwill   | 205,000          |
|     | Notional goodwill ( $15/85 \times \$205,000$ )  | <u>36,176</u>    |
|     |   | <u>941,176</u>   |
|     | Recoverable amount  | <u>(660,000)</u> |
|     | Impairment loss   | <u>281,176</u>   |
|     | Allocated to:   |                  |
|     | Recognised and notional goodwill  | 241,176          |
|     | Other net assets  | 40,000           |

Therefore the non-controlling interest is  $(\$700,000 - \$40,000) \times 15\% = \$99,000$ .

As the non-controlling interests does not include goodwill, only the impairment allocated to other net assets is included here.

### 3.16 Example: Impairment loss and goodwill: full goodwill

Assume that the facts relating to the acquisition of Dushanbe are the same as above, except that it is Acetone group's policy to value the non-controlling interest on the acquisition of Dushanbe at fair value. The fair value of the non-controlling interest in Dushanbe at acquisition was \$100,000.

*Required*

Determine the following amounts in respect of Acetone's consolidated financial statements at 31 December 20X7 according to IAS 36 *Impairment of assets*.

- (a) The carrying amount of Dushanbe's assets to be compared with its recoverable amount for impairment testing purposes
- (b) The carrying amount of goodwill in respect of Dushanbe after the recognition of any impairment loss.

#### Solution

- (a) \$700,000
- (b) \$120,000

*Workings*

|     |  |                |
|-----|--|----------------|
| (a) |  | \$             |
|     | Consideration transferred  | 600,000        |
|     | Fair value of NCI  | 100,000        |
|     |  | <u>700,000</u> |
|     | Fair value of net assets acquired  | 400,000        |
|     | Goodwill   | <u>300,000</u> |
|     |  | \$             |
|     | Book value of Dushanbe's net assets  | 400,000        |
|     | Goodwill recognised on acquisition   | 300,000        |
|     |  | <u>700,000</u> |
| (b) | The impairment loss is the total \$700,000 less the recoverable amount of \$520,000 = \$180,000. Under IAS 36 this is first allocated against the \$300,000 goodwill. (As the impairment loss is less than the goodwill, none is allocated against identifiable net assets.) |                |
|     |  | \$             |
|     | Carrying value of goodwill   | 300,000        |
|     | Impairment   | (180,000)      |
|     | Revised carrying amount of goodwill  | <u>120,000</u> |

In the equity of the group statement of financial position, the retained earnings will be reduced by the parent's share of the impairment loss on the full goodwill, ie \$144,000 ( $80\% \times \$180,000$ ) and the NCI reduced by the NCI's share, ie \$36,000 ( $20\% \times \$180,000$ ).

In the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the impairment loss of \$180,000 will be charged as an extra operating expense. As the impairment loss relates to the full goodwill of the subsidiary, so it will reduce the NCI in the subsidiary's profit for the year by \$36,000 ( $20\% \times \$180,000$ ).

### 3.17 Disclosure

IAS 36 calls for substantial disclosure about impairment of assets. The information to be disclosed includes the following.

- (a) For each class of assets, the amount of **impairment losses recognised** and the amount of any **impairment losses recovered** (ie reversals of impairment losses)

- (b) For each individual asset or cash generating unit that has suffered a **significant impairment loss**, details of the nature of the asset, the amount of the loss, the events that led to recognition of the loss, whether the recoverable amount is fair value price less costs of disposal or value in use, and if the recoverable amount is value in use, the basis on which this value was estimated (eg the discount rate applied)

### 3.18 Section summary

The main aspects of IAS 36 to consider are:

- **Indications** of impairment of assets
- **Measuring recoverable amount**, as net selling price or value in use
- **Measuring value in use**
- **Cash generating units**
- **Accounting treatment** of an impairment loss, for individual assets and cash generating units
- **Reversal** of an impairment loss

## 4 IAS 40 Investment property

### FAST FORWARD

IAS 40 *Investment property* defines investment property as property **held to earn rentals or for capital appreciation** or both, rather than for:

- Use in production or supply of goods or services
- Sale in the ordinary course of business

An entity may own land or a building **as an investment** rather than for use in the business. It may therefore generate cash flows largely independently of other assets which the entity holds.

Consider the following definitions.

### Key terms

**Investment property** is property (land or a building – or part of a building – or both) held (by the owner or by the lessee under a finance lease) to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both, rather than for:

- Use in the production or supply of goods or services or for administrative purposes, or
- Sale in the ordinary course of business

**Owner-occupied property** is property held by the owner (or by the lessee under a finance lease) for use in the production or supply of goods or services or for administrative purposes.

**Fair value** is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

**Cost** is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of other consideration given to acquire an asset at the time of its acquisition or construction.

**Carrying amount** is the amount at which an asset is recognised in the statement of financial position.

A property interest that is held by a lessee under an **operating lease** may be classified and accounted for as an **investment property**, if and only if, the property would otherwise meet the definition of an investment property and the lessee uses the IAS 40 **fair value model**. This classification is available on a property-by-property basis.

**Examples** of investment property include:

- Land held for long-term capital appreciation** rather than for short-term sale in the ordinary course of business
- A building** owned by the reporting entity (or held by the entity under a finance lease) and **leased out under an operating lease**
- Property being constructed** or developed for future use as investment property





## Question

## Investment property

Rich Co owns a piece of land. The directors have not yet decided whether to build a factory on it for use in its business or to keep it and sell it when its value has risen.

Would this be classified as an investment property under IAS 40?

## Answer

Yes. If an entity has not determined that it will use the land either as an owner-occupied property or for short-term sale in the ordinary course of business, the land is considered to be held for capital appreciation.

### 4.1 IAS 40

The objective of IAS 40 *Investment property* is to prescribe the accounting treatment for investment property and related disclosure requirements.

The standard includes investment property held under a finance lease or leased out under an operating lease. However, the current IAS 40 does not deal with matters covered in IAS 17 *Leases*.

You now know what **is** an investment property under IAS 40. Below are examples of items that are **not investment property**.

| Type of non-investment property                                    | Applicable IAS                              |
|--|---|
| Property held for sale in the ordinary course of business          | IAS 2 <i>Inventories</i>                    |
| Property being constructed or developed on behalf of third parties | IAS 11 <i>Construction contracts</i>        |
| Owner-occupied property  | IAS 16 <i>Property, plant and equipment</i> |

### 4.2 Recognition

Investment property should be recognised as an asset when **two conditions** are met.

- It is **probable** that the **future economic benefits** that are associated with the investment property will **flow to the entity**.
- The **cost** of the investment property can be **measured reliably**.

### 4.3 Initial measurement

An investment property should be measured initially at its **cost**, including transaction costs.

A property interest held under a lease and classified as an investment property shall be accounted for **as if it were a finance lease**. The asset is recognised at the lower of the fair value of the property and the present value of the minimum lease payments. An equivalent amount is recognised as a liability.

### 4.4 Measurement subsequent to initial recognition

#### FAST FORWARD

Entities can choose between:

- A **fair value model**, with changes in fair value being measured
- A **cost model** – the treatment most commonly used under IAS 16

IAS 40 requires an entity to **choose between two models**.

- The fair value model
- The cost model

Whatever policy it chooses should be applied to **all of its investment property**.

Where an entity chooses to classify a property held under an **operating lease** as an investment property, there is **no choice**. The **fair value model must be used for all the entity's investment property**, regardless of whether it is owned or leased.

#### 4.4.1 Fair value model

##### Key term

- (a) After initial recognition, an entity that chooses the **fair value model** should measure all of its investment property at fair value, except in the extremely rare cases where this cannot be measured reliably. In such cases it should apply the IAS 16 cost model.
- (b) A gain or loss arising from a change in the fair value of an investment property should be recognised in net profit or loss for the period in which it arises.

Unusually, the IASB allows a fair value model for non-financial assets. This is not the same as a revaluation, where increases in carrying amount above a cost-based measure are recognised as revaluation surplus. Under the fair-value model all changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.

IFRS 13 *Fair value measurement*, issued in May 2011 deleted much of the guidance provided in IAS 40 in respect of the determination of fair value. Instead the requirements of IFRS 13 (see [Chapter 7](#)) apply in measuring the fair value of investment properties. This standard requires that the following are considered in determining fair value:

- (a) The asset being measured
- (b) The principal market (ie that where the most activity takes place) or where there is no principal market, the most advantageous market (ie that in which the best price could be achieved) in which an orderly transaction would take place for the asset
- (c) The highest and best use of the asset and whether it is used on a stand-alone basis or in conjunction with other assets
- (d) Assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset.

Having considered these factors, IFRS 13 provides a hierarchy of inputs for arriving at fair value. It requires that level 1 inputs are used where possible:

- Level 1* Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets that the entity can access at the measurement date.
- Level 2* Inputs other than quoted prices that are directly or indirectly observable for the asset.
- Level 3* Unobservable inputs for the asset.

##### More detail

Level 1 inputs are prices quoted in active markets for items identical to the asset (in this case investment property) being measured. Active markets are ones where transactions take place with sufficient frequency and volume for pricing information to be provided.

In general, IFRS 13 requires in respect of non-financial assets that fair value is decided on the basis of the **highest and best use of the asset as determined by a market participant**. Highest and best use is determined from the perspective of market participants, even if the reporting entity intends a different use. For example, an entity may intend to use assets acquired in a business combination differently from how other market participants might use them. If, however, there is no evidence to suggest that the current use of an asset is not its highest and best use an entity does not need to carry out an exhaustive search for other potential uses.

The 'highest and best use' requirement would appear not to contradict point (b) below, because it requires a market participant rather than solely the knowledge of the entity.

KPMG (*Real Estate Newsletter, July 2011*), has expressed the opinion that the 'highest and best use' requirement is unlikely to change the valuation of investment property:

'The real estate sector is used to dealing with alternative use value. For example an existing commercial property which could generate additional value through conversion into a residential development would be valued based on the higher amount if there is reasonable certainty over the planning being gained.'

**More detail on IFRS 13 is given in Chapters 7 and 12.**

The guidance which remains in IAS 40 is as follows.

- (a) Double counting should be prevented in deciding on the fair value of the assets. For example, elevators or air conditioning, which form an integral part of a building should be incorporated in the investment property rather than recognised separately.
- (b) According to the definition in **IAS 36 Impairment of assets**, fair value is not the same as 'value in use'. The latter reflects factors and knowledge as relating solely to the entity, while the former reflects factors and knowledge applicable to the market.
- (c) In those uncommon cases in which the **fair value of an investment property cannot be measured reliably** by an entity, the cost model in **IAS 16** must be employed until the investment property is disposed of. **The residual value must be assumed to be zero.**

#### 4.4.2 Cost model

The cost model is the **cost model in IAS 16**. Investment property should be measured at **depreciated cost, less any accumulated impairment losses**. An entity that chooses the cost model should **disclose the fair value of its investment property**.

#### 4.4.3 Changing models

Once the entity has chosen the fair value or cost model, it should apply it to all its investment property. It **should not change from one model to the other unless the change will result in a more appropriate presentation**. IAS 40 states that it is highly unlikely that a change from the fair value model to the cost model will result in a more appropriate presentation.

### 4.5 Transfers

**Transfers** to or from investment property should **only** be made **when there is a change in use**. For example, owner occupation commences so the investment property will be treated under IAS 16 as an owner-occupied property.

When there is a transfer from investment property carried at fair value to owner-occupied property or inventories, the property's cost for subsequent accounting under IAS 16 or IAS 2 should be its fair value at the date of change of use.

Conversely, an owner-occupied property may become an investment property and need to be carried at fair value. An entity should apply IAS 16 up to the date of change of use. It should treat any difference at that date between the carrying amount of the property under IAS 16 and its fair value as a revaluation under IAS 16.

### 4.6 Disposals

**Derecognise** (eliminate from the statement of financial position) an investment property on disposal or when it is permanently withdrawn from use and no future economic benefits are expected from its disposal.

Any **gain or loss** on disposal is the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset. It should generally be **recognised as income or expense in profit or loss**.

Compensation from third parties for investment property that was impaired, lost or given up shall be recognised in profit or loss when the compensation becomes receivable.

## 4.7 Disclosure requirements

These relate to:

- Choice of fair value model or cost model
- Whether property interests held as operating leases are included in investment property
- Criteria for classification as investment property
- Use of independent professional valuer (encouraged but not required)
- Rental income and expenses
- Any restrictions or obligations

### 4.7.1 Fair value model – additional disclosures

An entity that adopts this must also disclose a **reconciliation** of the carrying amount of the investment property at the beginning and end of the period.

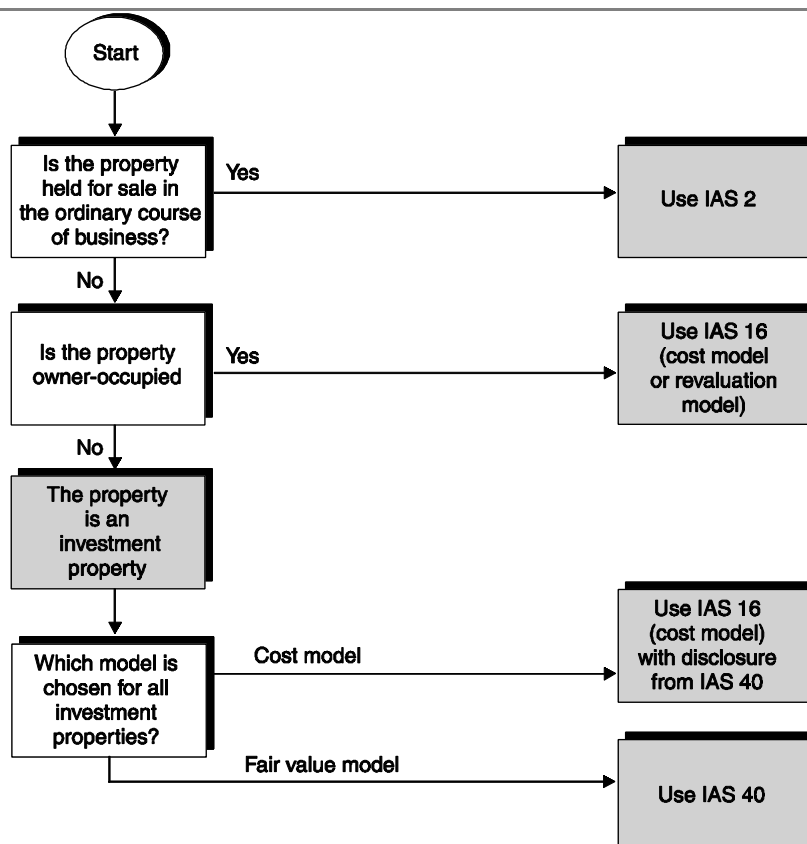
### 4.7.2 Cost model – additional disclosures

These relate mainly to the depreciation method. In addition, an entity which adopts the cost model **must disclose the fair value** of the investment property.

## 4.8 Decision tree

The decision tree below summarises which IAS apply to various kinds of property.

Learn this decision tree – it will help you tackle most of the problems you are likely to meet in the exam!



**Exam focus point**

**Intangible assets** are defined by **IAS 38** as non-monetary assets without physical substance. They must be:

- **Identifiable**
- **Controlled** as a result of a past event
- Able to provide **future economic benefits**

The objectives of the standard are:

- (a) To establish the criteria for when an intangible assets may or should be **recognised**
- (b) To specify how intangible assets should be **measured**
- (c) To specify the **disclosure requirements** for intangible assets

It applies to all intangible assets with certain **exceptions**: deferred tax assets (IAS 12), leases that fall within the scope of IAS 17, financial assets, insurance contracts, assets arising from employee benefits (IAS 19), non-current assets held for sale and mineral rights and exploration and extraction costs for minerals etc (although intangible assets used to develop or maintain these rights are covered by the standard). It does *not* apply to goodwill acquired in a business combination, which is dealt with under IFRS 3 *Business combinations*.

## 5.1 Definition of an intangible asset

The definition of an intangible assets is a key aspect of the proposed standard, because the rules for deciding whether or not an intangible asset may be **recognised** in the accounts of an entity are based on the definition of what an intangible asset is.

### Key term

An **intangible asset** is an identifiable non-monetary asset without physical substance The asset must be:

- (a) controlled by the entity as a result of events in the past, and
- (b) something from which the entity expects future economic benefits to flow.

Examples of items that might be considered as intangible assets include computer software, patents, copyrights, motion picture films, customer lists, franchises and fishing rights. An item should not be recognised as an intangible asset, however, unless it **fully meets the definition** in the standard. The guidelines go into great detail on this matter.

## 5.2 Intangible asset: must be identifiable

An intangible asset must be identifiable in order to distinguish it from goodwill. With non-physical items, there may be a problem with '**identifiability**'.

- (a) If an intangible asset is **acquired separately through purchase**, there may be a transfer of a legal right that would help to make an asset identifiable.
- (b) An intangible asset may be identifiable if it is **separable**, ie if it could be rented or sold separately. However, 'separability' is not an essential feature of an intangible asset.

## 5.3 Intangible asset: control by the entity

Another element of the definition of an intangible asset is that it must be under the control of the entity as a result of a past event. The entity must therefore be able to enjoy the future economic benefits from the asset, and prevent the access of others to those benefits. A **legally enforceable right** is evidence of such control, but is not always a *necessary* condition.

- (a) Control over **technical knowledge or know-how** only exists if it is protected by a **legal right**.
- (b) The skill of employees, arising out of the benefits of **training costs**, are most unlikely to be recognisable as an intangible asset, because an entity does not control the future actions of its staff.

- (c) Similarly, **market share and customer loyalty** cannot normally be intangible assets, since an entity cannot control the actions of its customers.

## 5.4 Intangible asset: expected future economic benefits

An item can only be recognised as an intangible asset if economic benefits are expected to flow in the future from ownership of the asset. Economic benefits may come from the **sale** of products or services, or from a **reduction in expenditures** (cost savings).

An intangible asset, when recognised initially, must be measured at **cost**. It should be recognised if, and only if **both** the following occur.

- (a) It is probable that the **future economic benefits** that are attributable to the asset will **flow to the entity**.
- (b) The **cost can be measured reliably**.

Management has to exercise its judgement in assessing the degree of certainty attached to the flow of economic benefits to the entity. External evidence is best.

- (a) If an intangible asset is **acquired separately**, its cost can usually be measured reliably as its purchase price (including incidental costs of purchase such as legal fees, and any costs incurred in getting the asset ready for use).
- (b) When an intangible asset is acquired as **part of a business combination** (ie an acquisition or takeover), the cost of the intangible asset is its fair value at the date of the acquisition.

IFRS 3 explains that the fair value of intangible assets acquired in business combinations can normally be measured with sufficient reliability to be **recognised separately** from goodwill.

**Quoted market prices** in an active market provide the most reliable measurement of the fair value of an intangible asset. If no active market exists for an intangible asset, its fair value is the amount that the entity would have paid for the asset, at the acquisition date, in an orderly transaction between market participants, on the basis of the best information available. In determining this amount, an entity should consider the outcome of recent transactions for similar assets. There are techniques for estimating the fair values of unique intangible assets (such as brand names) and these may be used to measure an intangible asset acquired in a business combination.

In accordance with IAS 20, intangible assets acquired by way of government grant and the grant itself may be recorded initially either at cost (which may be zero) or fair value.

## 5.5 Exchanges of assets

If one intangible asset is exchanged for another, the cost of the intangible asset is measured at fair value unless:

- (a) The exchange transaction lacks commercial substance, or
- (b) The fair value of neither the asset received nor the asset given up can be measured reliably.

Otherwise, its cost is measured at the carrying amount of the asset given up.

## 5.6 Internally generated goodwill

### Rule to learn

Internally generated goodwill may **not** be recognised as an **asset**.

The standard deliberately precludes recognition of internally generated goodwill because it requires that, for initial recognition, the cost of the asset rather than its fair value should be capable of being measured reliably and that it should be identifiable and controlled. Therefore, you do not recognise an asset which is subjective and cannot be measured reliably.

## 5.7 Research and development costs

### 5.7.1 Research

Research activities by definition do not meet the criteria for recognition under IAS 38. This is because, at the research stage of a project, it cannot be certain that future economic benefits will probably flow to the entity from the project. There is too much uncertainty about the likely success or otherwise of the project. **Research costs should therefore be written off as an expense as they are incurred.**

#### Examples of research costs

- (a) Activities aimed at obtaining new knowledge
- (b) The search for, evaluation and final selection of, applications of research findings or other knowledge
- (c) The search for alternatives for materials, devices, products, processes, systems or services
- (d) The formulation, design evaluation and final selection of possible alternatives for new or improved materials, devices, products, systems or services

### 5.7.2 Development

Development costs **may qualify** for recognition as intangible assets provided that the following **strict criteria** are met.

- (a) The technical feasibility of completing the intangible asset so that it will be available for use or sale.
- (b) Its intention to complete the intangible asset and use or sell it.
- (c) Its ability to use or sell the intangible asset.
- (d) How the intangible asset will generate probable future economic benefits. Among other things, the entity should demonstrate the existence of a market for the output of the intangible asset or the intangible asset itself or, if it is to be used internally, the usefulness of the intangible asset.
- (e) Its ability to measure the expenditure attributable to the intangible asset during its development reliably.

In contrast with research costs development costs are incurred at a later stage in a project, and the probability of success should be more apparent. Examples of development costs include the following.

- (a) The design, construction and testing of pre-production or pre-use prototypes and models
- (b) The design of tools, jigs, moulds and dies involving new technology
- (c) The design, construction and operation of a pilot plant that is not of a scale economically feasible for commercial production
- (d) The design, construction and testing of a chosen alternative for new or improved materials, devices, products, processes, systems or services

### 5.7.3 Other internally generated intangible assets

The standard **prohibits** the recognition of **internally generated brands, mastheads, publishing titles and customer lists** and similar items as intangible assets. These all fail to meet one or more (in some cases all) the definition and recognition criteria and in some cases are probably indistinguishable from internally generated goodwill.

### 5.7.4 Cost of an internally generated intangible asset

The costs allocated to an internally generated intangible asset should be only costs that can be **directly attributed** or allocated on a reasonable and consistent basis to creating, producing or preparing the asset for its intended use. The principles underlying the costs which may or may not be included are similar to those for other than non-current assets and inventory.

The cost of an internally operated intangible asset is the sum of the **expenditure incurred from the date when** the intangible asset first **meets the recognition criteria**. If, as often happens, considerable costs have already been recognised as expenses before management could demonstrate that the criteria have

been met, this earlier expenditure should not be retrospectively recognised at a later date as part of the cost of an intangible asset.

### 5.7.5 Example: Computer software and hardware

The treatments can be illustrated by reference to computer software and hardware. The treatment depends on the nature of the asset and its origin.

| Asset   | Origin               | Treatment   |
|---|----------------------|---|
| Computer software   | Purchased            | Capitalise  |
| Operating system for hardware   | Purchased            | Include in hardware cost  |
| Computer software<br>Operating system for hardware<br>(For use or sale) | Internally developed | Charge to expense until 'Development criteria' (Para 5.7.2) are met. Amortise over useful life, based on pattern of benefits straight line is default). |



#### Question

#### Recognition criteria

Doug Co is developing a new production process. During 20X3, expenditure incurred was \$100,000, of which \$90,000 was incurred before 1 December 20X3 and \$10,000 between 1 December 20X3 and 31 December 20X3. Doug Co can demonstrate that, at 1 December 20X3, the production process met the criteria for recognition as an intangible asset. The recoverable amount of the know-how embodied in the process is estimated to be \$50,000.

How should the expenditure be treated?

#### Answer

At the end of 20X3, the production process is recognised as an intangible asset at a cost of \$10,000. This is the expenditure incurred since the date when the recognition criteria were met, that is 1 December 20X3. The \$90,000 expenditure incurred before 1 December 20X3 is expensed, because the recognition criteria were not met. It will never form part of the cost of the production process recognised in the statement of financial position.

## 5.8 Recognition of an expense

All expenditure related to an intangible which does not meet the criteria for recognition either as an identifiable intangible asset or as goodwill arising on an acquisition should be **expensed as incurred**. The IAS gives examples of such expenditure.

- Start up costs
- Training costs
- Advertising costs
- Business relocation costs

**Prepaid costs for services**, for example advertising or marketing costs for campaigns that have been prepared but not launched, can still be recognised as a **prepayment**.

If tangible asset costs have been expensed in previous financial statements, they may not be recognised as part of the cost of the asset.

## 5.9 Measurement of intangible assets subsequent to initial recognition

#### FAST FORWARD

Intangible assets should initially be measured at cost, but subsequently they can be carried at **cost or at a fair value**.

The standard allows two methods of valuation for intangible assets after they have been first recognised.



Applying the **cost model**, an intangible asset should be **carried at its cost**, less any accumulated depreciation and less any accumulated impairment losses.

The **revaluation model** allows an intangible asset to be carried at a revalued amount, which is its **fair value** at the date of revaluation, less any subsequent accumulated amortisation and any subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

- (a) The fair value must be able to be measured reliably with reference to an **active market** in that type of asset.
- (b) The **entire class** of intangible assets of that type must be revalued at the same time (to prevent selective revaluations).
- (c) If an intangible asset in a class of revalued intangible assets cannot be revalued because there is **no active market** for this asset, the asset should be carried at its **cost less any accumulated amortisation and impairment losses**.
- (d) Revaluations should be made with such **regularity** that the carrying amount does not differ from that which would be determined using fair value at the year end.

#### Point to note

This treatment is **not** available for the **initial recognition** of intangible assets. This is because the cost of the asset must be reliably measured.

The guidelines state that there **will not usually be an active market** in an intangible asset; therefore the revaluation model will usually not be available. For example, although copyrights, publishing rights and film rights can be sold, each has a unique sale value. In such cases, revaluation to fair value would be inappropriate. A fair value might be obtainable however for assets such as fishing rights or quotas or taxi cab licences.

Where an intangible asset is revalued upwards to a fair value, the amount of the revaluation should be credited directly to equity under the heading of a **revaluation surplus**.

However, if a revaluation surplus is a **reversal of a revaluation decrease** that was previously charged against income, the increase can be recognised as income.

Where the carrying amount of an intangible asset is revalued downwards, the amount of the **downward revaluation** should be charged as an expense against income, unless the asset has previously been revalued upwards. A revaluation decrease should be first charged against any previous revaluation surplus in respect of that asset.



#### Question

#### Downward valuation

An intangible asset is measured by a company at fair value. The asset was revalued by \$400 in 20X3, and there is a revaluation surplus of \$400 in the statement of financial position. At the end of 20X4, the asset is valued again, and a downward valuation of \$500 is required.

*Required*

State the accounting treatment for the downward revaluation.

#### Answer

In this example, the downward valuation of \$500 can first be set against the revaluation surplus of \$400. The revaluation surplus will be reduced to 0 and a charge of \$100 made as an expense in 20X4.

When the revaluation model is used, and an intangible asset is revalued upwards, the cumulative revaluation **surplus may be transferred to retained earnings** when the surplus is eventually realised. The surplus would be realised when the asset is disposed of. However, the surplus may also be realised over time as the **asset is used** by the entity. The amount of the surplus realised each year is the difference between the amortisation charge for the asset based on the revalued amount of the asset, and the amortisation that would be charged on the basis of the asset's historical cost. The realised surplus in such

case should be transferred from revaluation surplus directly to retained earnings, and should not be taken through profit or loss for the year.

## 5.10 Useful life

An entity should **assess** the useful life of an intangible asset, which may be **finite or infinite**. An intangible asset has an indefinite useful life when there is **no foreseeable limit** to the period over which the asset is expected to generate net cash inflows for the entity.

Many factors are considered in determining the useful life of an intangible asset, including: expected usage; typical product life cycles; technical, technological, commercial or other types of obsolescence; the stability of the industry; expected actions by competitors; the level of maintenance expenditure required; and legal or similar limits on the use of the asset, such as the expiry dates of related leases. Computer software and many other intangible assets normally have short lives because they are susceptible to technological obsolescence. However, uncertainty does not justify choosing a life that is unrealistically short.

The useful life of an intangible asset that arises from **contractual or other legal rights** should not exceed the period of the rights, but may be shorter depending on the period over which the entity expects to use the asset.

## 5.11 Amortisation period and amortisation method

An intangible asset with a finite useful life should be amortised over its **expected useful life**.

- (a) Amortisation should start when the asset is **available for use**.
- (b) Amortisation should cease at the earlier of the date that the asset is classified **as held for sale** in accordance with IFRS 5 *Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations* and the date that the asset is **derecognised**.
- (c) The amortisation method used should reflect the **pattern in which the asset's future economic benefits are consumed**. If such a pattern cannot be predicted reliably, the straight-line method should be used.
- (d) The amortisation charge for each period should normally be recognised **in profit or loss**.

The **residual value** of an intangible asset with a finite useful life is **assumed to be zero** unless a third party is committed to buying the intangible asset at the end of its useful life or unless there is an active market for that type of asset (so that its expected residual value can be measured) and it is probable that there will be a market for the asset at the end of its useful life.

The amortisation period and the amortisation method used for an intangible asset with a finite useful life should be **reviewed at each financial year-end**.

## 5.12 Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives

An intangible asset with an indefinite useful life **should not be amortised**. (IAS 36 requires that such an asset is tested for impairment at least annually.)

The useful life of an intangible asset that is not being amortised should be **reviewed each year** to determine whether it is still appropriate to assess its useful life as indefinite. Reassessing the useful life of an intangible asset as finite rather than indefinite is an indicator that the asset may be impaired and therefore it should be tested for impairment.



It may be difficult to establish the useful life of an intangible asset, and judgement will be needed. Consider how to determine the useful life of a *purchased* brand name and how to provide evidence that its useful life might in fact exceed 20 years.

## Answer

Factors to consider would include the following.

- (a) Legal protection of the brand name and the control of the entity over the (illegal) use by others of the brand name (ie control over pirating)
- (b) Age of the brand name
- (c) Status or position of the brand in its particular market
- (d) Ability of the management of the entity to manage the brand name and to measure activities that support the brand name (eg advertising and PR activities)
- (e) Stability and geographical spread of the market in which the branded products are sold
- (f) Pattern of benefits that the brand name is expected to generate over time
- (g) Intention of the entity to use and promote the brand name over time (as evidenced perhaps by a business plan in which there will be substantial expenditure to promote the brand name)

### 5.13 Disposals/retirements of intangible assets

An intangible asset should be eliminated from the statement of financial position when it is disposed of or when there is no further expected economic benefit from its future use. On disposal the gain or loss arising from the **difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount** of the asset should be taken to the profit or loss for the year as a gain or loss on disposal (ie treated as income or expense).

### 5.14 Disclosure requirements

The standard has fairly extensive disclosure requirements for intangible assets. The financial statements should disclose the **accounting policies** for intangible assets that have been adopted.

For **each class of intangible assets**, disclosure is required of the following.

- The method of amortisation used
- The useful life of the assets or the amortisation rate used
- The gross carrying amount, the accumulated amortisation and the accumulated impairment losses as at the beginning and the end of the period
- A reconciliation of the carrying amount as at the beginning and at the end of the period (additions, retirements/disposals, revaluations, impairment losses, impairment losses reversed, amortisation charge for the period, net exchange differences, other movements)
- The carrying amount of internally-generated intangible assets

The financial statements should also disclose the following.

- In the case of intangible assets that are assessed as having a indefinite useful life, the carrying amounts and the reasons supporting that assessment
- For intangible assets acquired by way of a **government grant** and initially recognised at fair value, the **fair value initially recognised**, the **carrying amount**, and whether they are carried under the **benchmark** or the **allowed alternative** treatment for subsequent remeasurements
- The carrying amount, nature and remaining amortisation period of any intangible asset that is **material to the financial statements of the entity as a whole**

- The existence (if any) and amounts of intangible assets whose **title is restricted** and of intangible assets that have been **pledged as security** for liabilities
- The amount of any **commitments for the future acquisition of intangible assets**

Where intangible assets are accounted for at revalued amounts, disclosure is required of the following.

- The **effective date of the revaluation** (by class of intangible assets)
- The **carrying amount** of revalued intangible assets
- The carrying amount that would have been shown (by class of assets) **if the cost model had been used**, and the amount of amortisation that would have been charged
- The amount of any **revaluation surplus** on intangible assets, as at the beginning and end of the period, and movements in the surplus during the year (and any restrictions on the distribution of the balance to shareholders)

The financial statements should also disclose the amount of research and development expenditure that have been charged as expenses of the period.

## 5.15 Section summary

- An intangible asset should be recognised if, and only if, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and the cost of the asset can be measured reliably.
- An asset is initially recognised at cost and subsequently carried either at cost or revalued amount.
- Costs that do not meet the recognition criteria should be expensed as incurred.
- An intangible asset with a finite useful life should be amortised over its useful life. An intangible asset with an indefinite useful life should not be amortised.



### Question

List

As an aid to your revision, list the examples given in IAS 38 of activities that might be included in either research or development.

### Answer

IAS 38 gives these examples.

#### *Research*

- Activities aimed at obtaining new knowledge
- The search for applications of research findings or other knowledge
- The search for product or process alternatives
- The formulation and design of possible new or improved product or process alternatives

#### *Development*

- The evaluation of product or process alternatives
- The design, construction and testing of pre-production prototypes and models
- The design of tools, jigs, moulds and dies involving new technology
- The design, construction and operation of a pilot plant that is not of a scale economically feasible for commercial production



## Question

## Project

Forkbender Co develops and manufactures exotic cutlery and has the following projects in hand.

|                           | Project |        |        |        |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
|                           | 1       | 2      | 3      | 4      |
|                           | \$'000  | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Deferred development      |         |        |        |        |
| Expenditure b/f 1.1.X2    | 280     | 450    | —      | —      |
| Development expenditure   |         |        |        |        |
| Incurrd during the year   |         |        |        |        |
| Salaries, wages and so on | 35      | —      | 60     | 20     |
| Overhead costs            | 2       | —      | —      | 3      |
| Materials and services    | 3       | —      | 11     | 4      |
| Patents and licences      | 1       | —      | —      | —      |
| Market research           | —       | —      | 2      | —      |

*Project 1* was originally expected to be highly profitable but this is now in doubt, since the scientist in charge of the project is now behind schedule, with the result that competitors are gaining ground.

*Project 2:* commercial production started during the year. Sales were 20,000 units in 20X1 and future sales are expected to be: 20X2 30,000 units; 20X3 60,000 units; 20X4 40,000 units; 20X5 30,000 units. There are no sales expected after 20X5.

*Project 3:* these costs relate to a new project, which meets the criteria for deferral of expenditure and which is expected to last for three years.

*Project 4* is another new project, involving the development of a 'loss leader', expected to raise the level of future sales.

The company's policy is to defer development costs, where permitted by IAS 38. Expenditure carried forward is written off evenly over the expected sales life of projects, starting in the first year of sale.

### Required

Show how the above projects should be treated in the accounting statements of Forkbender Co for the year ended 31 December 20X2 in accordance with best accounting practice. Justify your treatment of each project.

## Answer

Project 1 expenditure, including that relating to previous years, should all be written off in 20X2, as there is now considerable doubt as to the profitability of the project.

Since commercial production has started under project 2 the expenditure previously deferred should now be amortised. This will be done over the estimated life of the product, as stated in the question.

Project 3: the development costs may be deferred.

Since project 4 is not expected to be profitable its development costs should not be deferred.

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 20X2 (extract)

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
|                            | \$'000 |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS         |        |
| <i>Intangible assets</i>   |        |
| Development costs (Note 2) | 431    |

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### 1 Accounting policies

#### Research and development

Research and development expenditure is written off as incurred, except that development costs incurred on an individual project are carried forward when their future recoverability can be foreseen with reasonable assurance. Any expenditure carried forward is amortised over the period of sales from the related project.

### 2 Development costs

|   | \$'000     | \$'000     |
|---|------------|------------|
| Balance brought forward 1 January 20X2                        |            | 730        |
| Development expenditure incurred during 20X2                  | 139        |            |
| Development expenditure amortised during 20X2 (321 + 90 + 27) | <u>438</u> |            |
|   |            | (299)      |
| Balance carried forward 31 December 20X2                      |            | <u>431</u> |

*Note.* IAS 38 would not permit the inclusion of market research in deferred development costs. Market research costs might, however, be carried forward separately under the accruals principle.

#### Workings

|               | 1          | 2         | 3        | 4         | Total      |
|---------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|
|               | \$'000     | \$'000    | \$'000   | \$'000    | \$'000     |
| B/F           | 280        | 450       |          |           | 730        |
| Salaries etc  | 35         |           | 60       | 20        | 115        |
| Overheads     | 2          |           |          | 3         | 5          |
| Materials etc | 3          |           | 11       | 4         | 18         |
| Patents etc   | 1          |           |          |           | 1          |
| C/F           |            | (360)     | (71)     |           | (431)      |
| Written off   | <u>321</u> | <u>90</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>27</u> | <u>438</u> |

\* *Note.* An alternative basis for amortisation would be:

$$\frac{20}{180} \times 450 = 50$$

The above basis is more prudent, however, in this case.

## 6 Goodwill

### FAST FORWARD

**Impairment** rules follow **IAS 36**. There are substantial disclosure requirements.

Goodwill is **created by good relationships** between a business and its customers.

- (a) By building up a **reputation** (by word of mouth perhaps) for high quality products or high standards of service
- (b) By **responding promptly and helpfully** to queries and complaints from customers
- (c) Through the **personality of the staff** and their attitudes to customers

The value of goodwill to a business might be **extremely significant**. However, goodwill is not usually valued in the accounts of a business at all, and we should not normally expect to find an amount for goodwill in its statement of financial position. For example, the welcoming smile of the bar staff may contribute more to a bar's profits than the fact that a new electronic cash register has recently been acquired. Even so, whereas the cash register will be recorded in the accounts as a non-current asset, the value of staff would be ignored for accounting purposes.

On reflection, we might agree with this omission of goodwill from the accounts of a business.

- (a) The goodwill is **inherent** in the business but it has not been paid for, and it does not have an 'objective' value. We can guess at what such goodwill is worth, but such guesswork would be a matter of individual opinion, and not based on hard facts.
- (b) Goodwill **changes** from day to day. One act of bad customer relations might damage goodwill and one act of good relations might improve it. Staff with a favourable personality might retire or leave to find another job, to be replaced by staff who need time to find their feet in the job. Since goodwill is continually changing in value, it cannot realistically be recorded in the accounts of the business.

## 6.1 Purchased goodwill

### FAST FORWARD

If a business has **goodwill**, it means that the value of the business as a going concern is greater than the value of its separate tangible assets. The valuation of goodwill is extremely subjective and fluctuates constantly. For this reason, non-purchased goodwill is **not** shown as an asset in the statement of financial position.

There is one exception to the general rule that goodwill has no objective valuation. This is **when a business is sold**. People wishing to set up in business have a choice of how to do it – they can either buy their own non-current assets and inventory and set up their business from scratch, or they can buy up an existing business from a proprietor willing to sell it. When a buyer purchases an existing business, he will have to purchase not only its long-term assets and inventory (and perhaps take over its accounts payable and receivable too) but also the goodwill of the business.

Purchased goodwill is shown in the statement of financial position because it has been paid for. It has no tangible substance, and so it is an **intangible non-current asset**.

## 6.2 How is the value of purchased goodwill decided?

### FAST FORWARD

When someone **purchases a business** as a going concern the purchaser and vendor will fix an agreed price which includes an element in respect of goodwill. The way in which goodwill is then valued is not an accounting problem, but a matter of agreement between the two parties.

When a business is sold, there is likely to be some purchased goodwill in the selling price. But **how is the amount of this purchased goodwill decided?**

This is not really a problem for accountants, who must simply record the goodwill in the accounts of the new business. The value of the goodwill is a **matter for the purchaser and seller to agree upon in fixing the purchase/sale price**. However, two methods of valuation are worth mentioning here.

- (a) The seller and buyer agree on a price **without specifically quantifying the goodwill**. The purchased goodwill will then be the difference between the price agreed and the value of the tangible assets in the books of the new business.
- (b) However, the calculation of goodwill often precedes the fixing of the purchase price and becomes a **central element of negotiation**. There are many ways of arriving at a value for goodwill and most of them are related to the profit record of the business in question.

No matter how goodwill is calculated within the total agreed purchase price, the goodwill shown by the purchaser in his accounts will be **the difference between the purchase consideration and his own valuation of the tangible net assets acquired**. If A values his tangible net assets at \$40,000, goodwill is agreed at \$21,000 and B agrees to pay \$61,000 for the business but values the tangible net assets at only \$38,000, then the goodwill in B's books will be \$61,000 – \$38,000 = \$23,000.

## 6.3 IFRS 3 (Revised) *Business combinations*

### FAST FORWARD

**Purchased goodwill** is retained in the statement of financial position as an intangible asset under the requirements of **IFRS 3**. It must then be reviewed for impairment annually.

IFRS 3 covers the accounting treatment of goodwill acquired in a business combination.

It is possible to define goodwill in different ways. The IFRS 3 definition of goodwill is different from the more traditional definition and emphasises benefits, rather than the method of calculation.

## Key terms

**Goodwill.** An asset representing the future economic benefits arising from other assets acquired in a **business combination** that are not individually identified and separately recognised. (IFRS 3)

Goodwill recognised in a business combination is **an asset** and is initially measured at **cost**. Cost is the excess of the cost of the combination over the acquirer's interest in the net fair value of the acquiree's identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities.

After initial recognition goodwill acquired in a business combination is measured **at cost less any accumulated impairment losses**. It is **not amortised**. Instead, it is tested for impairment at least annually, in accordance with IAS 36 *Impairment of assets*.

### 6.3.1 Goodwill and non-controlling interests

The old IFRS 3 looked at goodwill from the point of view of the parent company, ie comparing, consideration transferred with the parent's share of net assets acquired.

#### IMPORTANT!

The revised IFRS 3 views the **group as an economic entity**. This means that it treats **all provides of equity including non-controlling interests as shareholders in the group**, even if they are not shareholders in the parent.

**Therefore, goodwill attributed to the non-controlling interest needs to be recognised.**

We will come back to this point in [Chapter 12](#).

### 6.3.2 Bargain purchase

A **bargain purchase** arises when the net of the acquisition-date amounts of the identifiable assets acquired and the liabilities assumed exceeds the consideration transferred (see Chapter 12).

A bargain purchase might happen, for example, in a business combination that is a forced sale in which the seller is acting under compulsion. However, the recognition or measurement exceptions for particular items may also result in recognising a gain (or change the amount of a recognised gain) on a bargain purchase.

**Before recognising a gain on a bargain purchase, the acquirer must reassess whether it has correctly identified all of the assets acquired and all of the liabilities assumed** and must recognise any additional assets or liabilities that are identified in that review. The acquirer must then review the procedures used to measure the amounts this IFRS requires to be recognised at the acquisition date for all of the following:

- (a) The identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed
- (b) The non-controlling (formerly minority) interest in the acquiree, if any
- (c) For a business combination achieved in stages, the acquirer's previously held interest in the acquiree
- (d) The consideration transferred

The purpose of this review is to ensure that the measurements appropriately reflect all the available information as at the acquisition date.





## Question

## Characteristics of goodwill

What are the main characteristics of goodwill which distinguish it from other intangible non-current assets? To what extent do you consider that these characteristics should affect the accounting treatment of goodwill? State your reasons.

## Answer

Goodwill may be distinguished from other intangible non-current assets by reference to the following characteristics.

- (a) It is incapable of realisation separately from the business as a whole.
- (b) Its value has no reliable or predictable relationship to any costs which may have been incurred.
- (c) Its value arises from various intangible factors such as skilled employees, effective advertising or a strategic location. These indirect factors cannot be valued.
- (d) The value of goodwill may fluctuate widely according to internal and external circumstances over relatively short periods of time.
- (e) The assessment of the value of goodwill is highly subjective.

It could be argued that, because goodwill is so different from other intangible non-current assets it does not make sense to account for it in the same way. Therefore, the capitalisation and amortisation treatment would not be acceptable. Furthermore, because goodwill is so difficult to value, any valuation may be misleading, and it is best eliminated from the statement of financial position altogether. However, there are strong arguments for treating it like any other intangible non-current asset. This issue remains controversial.

## Chapter Roundup

- You must learn the IASB *Framework* **definition of an asset**: a resource controlled by the entity as a result of past events and from which future economic benefits are expected to flow to the entity.
- This definition ties in closely with the definitions produced by **other standard-setters**, particularly FASB (USA) and ASB (UK).
- The definition has three important characteristics:
  - **Future economic benefit**
  - **Control (ownership)**
  - **Transaction to acquire control has taken place**
- You should already be familiar with many standards relating to **non-current assets** from earlier studies. If not, go back to your earlier study material.
  - IAS 16 *Property, plant and equipment*
  - IAS 20 *Accounting for government grants and disclosure of government assistance*
  - IAS 23 *Borrowing costs*
- **IAS 36 Impairment of assets** covers a controversial topic and it affects goodwill as well as tangible long-term assets.
- Impairment is determined by comparing the carrying amount of the asset with its **recoverable amount**.
- The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of the asset's **fair value less costs of disposal** and its **value in use**.
- When it is not possible to calculate the recoverable amount of a single asset, then that of its **cash generating unit** should be measured instead.
- IAS 40 *Investment property* defines investment property as property **held to earn rentals or for capital appreciation** or both, rather than for:
  - Use in production or supply of goods or services
  - Sale in the ordinary course of business
- Entities can choose between:
  - **A fair value model**, with changes in fair value being measured
  - **A cost model** – the treatment most commonly used under IAS 16
- **Intangible assets** are defined by **IAS 38** as non-monetary assets without physical substance. They must be:
  - **Identifiable**
  - **Controlled** as a result of a past event
  - Able to provide **future economic benefits**
- Intangible assets should initially be measured at cost, but subsequently they can be carried at **cost or at a fair value**.
- **Internally-generated goodwill** cannot be recognised as an asset but other internally-generated assets may be, eg R & D.
- **Impairment** rules follow **IAS 36**. There are substantial disclosure requirements.
- If a business has **goodwill**, it means that the value of the business as a going concern is greater than the value of its separate tangible assets. The valuation of goodwill is extremely subjective and fluctuates constantly. For this reason, non-purchased goodwill is **not** shown as an asset in the statement of financial position.

## Chapter Roundup (continued)

- When someone **purchases a business** as a going concern the purchaser and vendor will fix an agreed price which includes an element in respect of goodwill. The way in which goodwill is then valued is not an accounting problem, but a matter of agreement between the two parties.
- **Purchased goodwill** is retained in the statement of financial position as an intangible asset under the requirements of **IFRS 3**. It must then be reviewed for impairment annually.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 How does the IASB *Framework* define an asset?
- 2 How might a non-current asset be defined?
- 3 Define an impairment.
- 4 How is value in use calculated?
- 5 What is a cash generating unit?
- 6 What is the correct treatment for property being constructed for future use as investment property?
- 7 Investment property **must** be valued at fair value. *True or false?*
- 8 Internally generated goodwill can be recognised. *True or false?*
- 9 How should research and development costs be treated under IAS 38?
- 10 When can a revaluation surplus on intangible assets be transferred to retained earnings?
- 11 Over what period should an intangible asset normally be amortised?
- 12 How should the gain or loss on the disposal of an intangible asset be calculated?
- 13 Why is it unusual to record goodwill as an asset in the accounts?
- 14 What is purchased goodwill?
- 15 Over what period should goodwill be amortised?
- 16 What treatment does IFRS 3 prescribe for a gain on a bargain purchase?

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 A resource controlled by the entity as a result of past events and from which future economic benefits are expected to flow to the entity.
- 2 One intended for use on a continuing basis in the company's activities.
- 3 A fall in the value of an asset, so that its recoverable amount is now less than its carrying value.
- 4 The present value of estimated future cash flows generated by the asset, including its estimated net disposal value (if any).
- 5 The smallest identifiable group of assets for which independent cash flows can be identified and measured.
- 6 Use IAS 16 until the construction is complete, then IAS 40.
- 7 False, it can be valued at cost or fair value.
- 8 False
- 9
  - Research costs are written off as an expense as they are incurred
  - Development costs may qualify as intangible assets if the criteria in Paragraph 5.7.2 are met.
- 10 When the surplus is eventually realised.
- 11 Over its useful life, which may be finite or indefinite
- 12 The difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying value.
- 13 The value of goodwill is usually inherent in the business but does not have an 'objective' value.
- 14 The aggregate of the difference between the fair value of the consideration transferred and any non-controlling interest, and the fair value of any non-controlling interest, and the fair value of the net assets.
- 15 Goodwill should not be amortised.
- 16 Before recognising a gain, measurement procedures for assets and liabilities and for consideration must be reviewed.

Now try the questions below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level       | Marks | Time    |
|--------|-------------|-------|---------|
| Q4     | Examination | 25    | 45 mins |
| Q5     | Examination | 25    | 45 mins |
| Q6     | Examination | 25    | 45 mins |

# Employee benefits

# 5

| Topic list   | Syllabus reference |
|--|--------------------|
| 1 IAS 19 Employee benefits                           | C6                 |
| 2 Short-term employee benefits                       | C6                 |
| 3 Post-employment benefits                           | C6                 |
| 4 Defined contribution plans                         | C6                 |
| 5 Defined benefit plans: recognition and measurement | C6                 |
| 6 Defined benefit plans: other matters               | C6                 |
| 7 Other long-term benefits                           | C6, F2             |
| 8 Disclosures  | C6                 |
| 9 Other issues                                       | C6                 |

## Introduction

An increasing number of companies and other entities now provide a **pension and other employee benefits** as part of their employees' remuneration package. In view of this trend, it is important that there is standard best practice for the way in which employee benefit costs are **recognised, measured, presented and disclosed** in the sponsoring entities' accounts.

Note that IAS 19 was revised in June 2011.

## Study guide

|           |  | Intellectual level |
|-----------|--|--------------------|
| <b>C6</b> | <b>Employee benefits</b>   |                    |
| (a)       | Apply and discuss the accounting treatment of short-term benefits                                  | 3                  |
| (b)       | Apply and discuss the accounting treatment of defined contribution and defined benefit plans       | 3                  |
| (c)       | Account for gains and losses on settlements and curtailments                                       | 2                  |
| (d)       | Account for the 'asset ceiling test' and the reporting of actuarial gains and losses               | 2                  |
| <b>F2</b> | <b>Proposed changes to accounting standards</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Identify the issues and deficiencies which have led to a proposed change to an accounting standard | 2                  |

## Exam guide

This topic will be new to you at this level. It may be examined as part of a multi-standard scenario question, or perhaps you will be asked to outline the changes proposed in the ED.

### 1 IAS 19 Employee benefits

12/07, 6/08, 6/12

#### FAST FORWARD

**IAS 19 Employee benefits** is a long and complex standard covering both short-term and long-term (post-employment) benefits. The complications arise when dealing with **post-employment benefits**.

#### Exam focus point

This is a very difficult topic – employee benefit costs are inherently complex and their accounting is both **problematic and controversial**. As such this is a ripe topic for Paper P2 and is highlighted as a key topic by the examiner.

IAS 19 *Employee benefits* has been revised several times. The latest version was issued in June 2011. The reason for the revision was to address some of the main criticisms of the previous methods of accounting for pensions. Before we look at IAS 19, we should consider the nature of employee benefit costs and why there is an accounting problem which must be addressed by a standard.

#### 1.1 The conceptual nature of employee benefit costs

When a company or other entity employs a new worker, that worker will be offered a **package of pay and benefits**. Some of these will be short-term and the employee will receive the benefit at about the same time as he or she earns it, for example basic pay, overtime and so on. Other employee benefits are **deferred**, however, the main example being retirement benefits (ie a pension).

The cost of these deferred employee benefits to the employer can be viewed in various ways. They could be described as **deferred salary** to the employee. Alternatively, they are a **deduction** from the employee's true gross salary, used as a tax-efficient means of saving. In some countries, tax efficiency arises on retirement benefit contributions because they are not taxed on the employee, but they are allowed as a deduction from taxable profits of the employer.

## 1.2 Accounting for employee benefit costs

Accounting for **short-term employee benefit costs** tends to be quite straightforward, because they are simply recognised as an expense in the employer's financial statements of the current period.

Accounting for the cost of **deferred employee benefits** is much more difficult. This is because of the large amounts involved, as well as the long time scale, complicated estimates and uncertainties. In the past, entities accounted for these benefits simply by charging profit or loss (the income statements) of the employing entity on the basis of actual payments made. This led to substantial variations in reported profits of these entities and disclosure of information on these costs was usually sparse.

## 1.3 IAS 19 Employee benefits

IAS 19 is intended to prescribe the following.

- (a) When the cost of employee benefits should be **recognised as a liability or an expense**
- (b) The **amount** of the liability or expense that should be recognised

As a basic rule, the standard states the following.

- (a) A **liability** should be recognised when an employee has provided a service in exchange for benefits to be received by the employee at some time in the future.
- (b) An **expense** should be recognised when the entity consumes the economic benefits from a service provided by an employee in exchange for employee benefits.

The basic problem is therefore fairly straightforward. An entity will often enjoy the **economic benefits** from the services provided by its employees in advance of the employees receiving all the employment benefits from the work they have done, for example they will not receive pension benefits until after they retire.

## 1.4 Categories of employee benefits

The standard recognises five categories of employee benefits, and proposes a different accounting treatment for each. These four categories are as follows.

- 1 **Short-term benefits** including, if expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related services:
  - Wages and salaries
  - Social security contributions
  - Paid annual leave
  - Paid sick leave
  - Paid maternity/paternity leave
  - Profit shares and bonuses
  - Paid jury service
  - Paid military service
  - Non-monetary benefits, eg medical care, housing, cars, free or subsidised goods
- 2 **Post-employment benefits**, eg pensions and post-employment medical care and post-employment insurance
- 3 **Other long-term benefits**, eg profit shares, bonuses or deferred compensation payable later than 12 months after the year end, sabbatical leave, long-service benefits and long-term disability benefits
- 4 **Termination benefits**, eg early retirement payments and redundancy payments

Benefits may be paid to the employees themselves, to their dependants (spouses, children, etc) or to third parties.

## 1.5 Definitions

IAS 19 uses a great many important definitions. This section lists those that relate to the different categories of employee benefits.

### Key terms

**Employee benefits** are all forms of consideration given by an entity in exchange for service rendered by employees or for the termination of employment.

**Short-term employee benefits** are employee benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service.

**Post-employment benefits** are employee benefits (other than termination benefits and short-term employee benefits) that are payable after the completion of employment.

**Other long-term employee benefits** are all employee benefits other than short-term employee benefits, post-employment benefits and termination benefits.

**Termination benefits** are employee benefits provided in exchange for the termination of an employee's employment as a result of either:

- (a) an entity's decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date, or
- (b) an employee's decision to accept an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment.

## 2 Short-term employee benefits

### FAST FORWARD

The accounting for **short term employee benefits** is simple. The principles are the same as for any expense that is accrued over a period.

Accounting for short-term employee benefits is fairly straightforward, because there are **no actuarial assumptions** to be made, and there is **no requirement to discount** future benefits (because they are all, by definition, payable no later than 12 months after the end of the accounting period).

### 2.1 Recognition and measurement

The rules for short-term benefits are essentially an application of **basic accounting principles and practice**.

- (a) **Unpaid short-term employee benefits** as at the end of an accounting period should be recognised as an accrued expense. Any short-term benefits **paid in advance** should be recognised as a prepayment (to the extent that it will lead to, eg a reduction in future payments or a cash refund).
- (b) The **cost of short-term employee benefits** should be recognised as an **expense** in the period when the economic benefit is given, as employment costs (except insofar as employment costs may be included within the cost of an asset, eg property, plant and equipment).

### 2.2 Short-term paid absences

There may be **short-term accumulating paid absences**. These are absences for which an employee is paid, and if the employee's entitlement has not been used up at the end of the period, they are carried forward to the next period. An example is paid holiday leave, where any unused holidays in one year are carried forward to the next year. The cost of the benefits of such absences should be **charged as an expense** as the employees render service that increases their entitlement to future compensated absences.

There may be **short-term non-accumulating paid absences**. These are absences for which an employee is paid when they occur, but an **entitlement to the absences does not accumulate**. The employee can be absent, and be paid, but only if and when the circumstances arise. Examples are maternity/paternity pay, (in most cases) sick pay, and paid absence for jury service.



## 2.3 Measurement

The cost of accumulating paid absences should be measured as the additional amount that the entity expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement that has accumulated at the end of the reporting period.

## 2.4 Example: Unused holiday leave

A company gives its employees an annual entitlement to paid holiday leave. If there is any unused leave at the end of the year, employees are entitled to carry forward the unused leave for up to 12 months. At the end of 20X9, the company's employees carried forward in total 50 days of unused holiday leave. Employees are paid \$100 per day.

*Required*

State the required accounting for the unused holiday carried forward.

## Solution

The short-term accumulating paid absences should be recognised as a cost in the year when the entitlement arises, ie in 20X9.



### Question

### Sick leave

Plyman Co has 100 employees. Each is entitled to five working days of paid sick leave for each year, and unused sick leave can be carried forward for one year. Sick leave is taken on a LIFO basis (ie first out of the current year's entitlement and then out of any balance brought forward).

As at 31 December 20X8, the average unused entitlement is two days per employee. Plyman Co expects (based on past experience which is expected to continue) that 92 employees will take five days or less sick leave in 20X9, the remaining eight employees will take an average of 6½ days each.

*Required*

State the required accounting for sick leave.

### Answer

Plyman Co expects to pay an additional 12 days of sick pay as a result of the unused entitlement that has accumulated at 31 December 20X8, ie 1½ days × 8 employees. Plyman Co should recognise a liability equal to 12 days of sick pay.

## 2.5 Profit sharing or bonus plans

Profit shares or bonuses payable within 12 months after the end of the accounting period should be recognised as an expected cost when the entity has a **present obligation to pay it**, ie when the employer has no real option but to pay it. This will usually be when the employer recognises the profit or other performance achievement to which the profit share or bonus relates. The measurement of the constructive obligation reflects the possibility that some employees may leave without receiving a bonus.

## 2.6 Example: Profit sharing plan

Mooro Co runs a profit sharing plan under which it pays 3% of its net profit for the year to its employees if none have left during the year. Mooro Co estimates that this will be reduced by staff turnover to 2.5% in 20X9.

*Required*

Which costs should be recognised by Mooro Co for the profit share?

## Solution

Mooro Co should recognise a liability and an expense of 2.5% of net profit.

## 2.7 Disclosure

There are **no specific disclosure requirements for short-term employee benefits** in the standard.

# 3 Post-employment benefits

### FAST FORWARD

There are **two types of post-employment benefit plan**:

- Defined contribution plans
- Defined benefit plans

Defined contribution plans are simple to account for as the benefits are defined by the contributions made.

Defined benefit plans are much more difficult to deal with as the benefits are promised, they define the contributions to be made.

Many employers provide post-employment benefits for their employees after they have stopped working. **Pension schemes** are the most obvious example, but an employer might provide post-employment death benefits to the dependants of former employees, or post-employment medical care.

Post-employment benefit schemes are often referred to as '**plans**'. The 'plan' receives regular contributions from the employer (and sometimes from current employees as well) and the money is invested in assets, such as stocks and shares and other investments. The post-employment benefits are paid out of the income from the plan assets (dividends, interest) or from money from the sale of some plan assets.

## 3.1 Definitions

IAS 19 sets out the following definitions relating to classification of plans.

### Key terms

**Defined contribution plans** are post-employment benefit plans under which an entity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity (a fund) and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

**Defined benefit plans** are post-employment benefit plans other than defined contribution plans.

**Multi-employer plans** are defined contribution plans (other than State plans) or defined benefit plans (other than State plans) that:

- (a) Pool the assets contributed by various entities that are not under common control, and
- (b) Use those assets to provide benefits to employees of more than one entity, on the basis that contribution and benefit levels are determined without regard to the identity of the entity that employs the employees concerned.

There are two types or categories of post-employment benefit plan, as given in the definitions above.

- (a) **Defined contribution plans.** With such plans, the employer (and possibly current employees too) pay regular contributions into the plan of a given or 'defined' amount each year. The contributions are invested, and the size of the post-employment benefits paid to former employees depends on how well or how badly the plan's investments perform. If the investments perform well, the plan will be able to afford higher benefits than if the investments performed less well.

- (b) **Defined benefit plans.** With these plans, the size of the post-employment benefits is determined in advance, ie the benefits are 'defined'. The employer (and possibly current employees too) pay contributions into the plan, and the contributions are invested. The size of the contributions is set at an amount that is expected to earn enough investment returns to meet the obligation to pay the post-employment benefits. If, however, it becomes apparent that the assets in the fund are insufficient, the employer will be required to make additional contributions into the plan to make up the expected shortfall. On the other hand, if the fund's assets appear to be larger than they need to be, and in excess of what is required to pay the post-employment benefits, the employer may be allowed to take a 'contribution holiday' (ie stop paying in contributions for a while).

It is important to make a clear distinction between the following.

- **Funding** a defined benefit plan, ie paying contributions into the plan
- **Accounting for** the cost of funding a defined benefit plan

The key difference between the two types of plan is the nature of the 'promise' made by the entity to the employees in the scheme:

- (a) Under a **defined contribution** plan, the 'promise' is to pay the agreed amount of contributions. Once this is done, the entity has no further liability and no exposure to risks related to the performance of the assets held in the plan.
- (b) Under a **defined benefit** plan, the 'promise' is to pay the amount of benefits agreed under the plan. The entity is taking on a far more uncertain liability that may change in future as a result of many variables and has continuing exposure to risks related to the performance of assets held in the plan. In simple terms, if the plan assets are insufficient to meet the plan liabilities to pay pensions in future, the entity will have to make up any deficit.

## 3.2 Multi-employer plans

These were defined above. IAS 19 requires an entity to **classify** such a plan as a defined contribution plan or a defined benefit plan, depending on its terms (including any constructive obligation beyond those terms).

For a multi-employer plan that is a **defined benefit plan**, the entity should account for its proportionate share of the defined benefit obligation, plan assets and cost associated with the plan in the same way as for any other defined benefit plan and make full disclosure.

When there is **insufficient information** to use defined benefit accounting, then the multi-employer plan should be accounted for as a defined contribution plan and additional disclosures made (that the plan is in fact a defined benefit plan and information about any known surplus or deficit).

## 3.3 Section summary

- There are two categories of **post-retirement benefits**:
  - Defined contribution schemes
  - Defined benefit schemes
- **Defined contribution schemes** provide benefits commensurate with the fund available to produce them.
- **Defined benefit schemes** provide promised benefits and so contributions are based on estimates of how the fund will perform.
- **Defined contribution scheme costs** are easy to account for and this is covered in the next section.

# 4 Defined contribution plans

A typical defined contribution plan would be where the employing company agreed to contribute an amount of, say, 5% of employees' salaries into a post-employment plan.

Accounting for payments into defined contribution plans is straightforward.

- (a) The **obligation** is measured by the amounts to be contributed for that period.
- (b) There are no actuarial assumptions to make.
- (c) If the obligation is settled in the current period (or at least no later than 12 months after the end of the current period) there is **no requirement for discounting**.

IAS 19 requires the following.

- (a) **Contributions** to a defined contribution plan should be recognised as an **expense** in the period they are payable (except to the extent that labour costs may be included within the cost of assets).
- (b) Any liability for **unpaid contributions** that are due as at the end of the period should be recognised as a **liability** (accrued expense).
- (c) Any **excess contributions** paid should be recognised as an asset (prepaid expense), but only to the extent that the prepayment will lead to, eg a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

In the (unusual) situation where contributions to a defined contribution plan do not fall due entirely within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees performed the related service, then these should be **discounted**. The discount rate to be used is discussed below in Paragraphs 5.22 and 5.23.

#### Disclosure requirements

- (a) A **description** of the plan
- (b) The amount recognised as an **expense** in the period

## 5 Defined benefit plans: recognition and measurement

6/11, 6/12

Accounting for defined benefit plans is much more complex. The complexity of accounting for defined benefit plans stems largely from the following factors.

- (a) The future benefits (arising from employee service in the current or prior years) **cannot be measured exactly**, but whatever they are, the employer will have to pay them, and the liability should therefore be recognised now. To measure these future obligations, it is necessary to use **actuarial assumptions**.
- (b) The obligations payable in future years should be valued, by discounting, on a **present value** basis. This is because the obligations may be settled in many years' time.
- (c) If actuarial assumptions change, the amount of required contributions to the fund will change, and there may be **actuarial gains or losses**. A contribution into a fund in any period will not equal the expense for that period, due to actuarial gains or losses.

IAS 19 defines the following key terms to do with defined benefit plans.

#### Key terms

The **net defined benefit liability (asset)** is the deficit or surplus, adjusted for any effect of limiting a net defined benefit asset to the asset ceiling.

The **deficit or surplus** is:

- (a) the present value of the defined benefit obligation less
- (b) the fair value of plan assets (if any).

The **asset ceiling** is the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan.

The **present value of a defined benefit** obligation is the present value, without deducting any plan assets, of expected future payments required to settle the obligation resulting from employee service in the current and prior periods.

**Plan assets** comprise:

- (a) Assets held by a long-term employee benefit fund; and
- (b) Qualifying insurance policies

**Assets held by a long-term employee benefit fund** are assets (other than non-transferable financial instruments issued by the reporting entity) that:

- (a) are held by an entity (a fund) that is legally separate from the reporting entity and exists solely to pay or fund employee benefits; and
- (b) are available to be used only to pay or fund employee benefits, are not available to the reporting entity's own creditors (even in bankruptcy), and cannot be returned to the reporting entity, unless either:
  - (i) the remaining assets of the fund are sufficient to meet all the related employee benefit obligations of the plan or the reporting entity; or
  - (ii) the assets are returned to the reporting entity to reimburse it for employee benefits already paid.

**A qualifying insurance policy** is an insurance policy issued by an insurer that is not a related party (as defined in IAS 24 *Related party disclosures*) of the reporting entity, if the proceeds of the policy:

- (a) can be used only to pay or fund employee benefits under a defined benefit plan; and
- (b) are not available to the reporting entity's own creditors (even in bankruptcy) and cannot be paid to the reporting entity, unless either:
  - (i) the proceeds represent surplus assets that are not needed for the policy to meet all the related employee benefit obligations; or
  - (ii) the proceeds are returned to the reporting entity to reimburse it for employee benefits already paid.

**Fair value** is the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

## 5.1 Outline of the method

### FAST FORWARD

There is a **four-step method** for recognising and measuring the expenses and liability of a defined benefit pension plan.

An outline of the method used by an employer to account for the expenses and obligation of a defined benefit plan is given below. The stages will be explained in more detail later.

### Step 1 Measure the deficit or surplus:

- (a) An **actuarial technique** (the **Projected Unit Credit Method**), should be used to make a reliable estimate of the amount of future benefits employees have earned from service in relation to the current and prior years. The entity must determine how much benefit should be attributed to service performed by employees in the current period, and in prior periods. Assumptions include, for example, assumptions about employee turnover, mortality rates, future increases in salaries (if these will affect the eventual size of future benefits such as pension payments).
- (b) The benefit should be **discounted** to arrive at the present value of the defined benefit obligation and the current service cost.
- (c) The **fair value** of any **plan assets** should be deducted from the present value of the defined benefit obligation.

**Step 2** The surplus or deficit measured in Step 1 may have to be adjusted if a net benefit asset has to be restricted by the **asset ceiling**.

### Step 3

Determine the amounts to be recognised in **profit or loss**:

- (a) **Current service cost**
- (b) Any **past service cost** and **gain or loss on settlement**
- (c) **Net interest** on the **net defined benefit liability (asset)**

### Step 4

Determine the **re-measurements** of the **net defined benefit liability (asset)**, to be recognised in **other comprehensive income** (items that will **not be reclassified to profit or loss**):

- (a) **Actuarial gains and losses**
- (b) **Return on plan assets** (excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset))
- (c) Any change in the effect of the **asset ceiling** (excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset))

## 5.2 Constructive obligation

IAS 19 makes it very clear that it is not only its legal obligation under the formal terms of a defined benefit plan that an entity must account for, but also for any **constructive obligation** that it may have. A constructive obligation, which will arise from the entity's informal practices, exist when the entity has no realistic alternative but to pay employee benefits, for example if any change in the informal practices would cause unacceptable damage to employee relationships.

## 5.3 The Projected Unit Credit Method

With this method, it is assumed that each period of service by an employee gives rise to an **additional unit of future benefits**. The present value of that unit of future benefits can be calculated, and attributed to the period in which the service is given. The units, each measured separately, build up to the overall obligation. The accumulated present value of (discounted) future benefits will incur interest over time, and an interest expense should be recognised.

These calculations are complex and would normally be carried out by an actuary. In the exam, you will be given the figures but the following example (from IAS 19) is included to explain the method.

## 5.4 Example: Defined benefit obligations and current service cost

A lump sum benefit is payable on termination of service and equal to 1% of final salary for each year of service. The salary in year 1 is \$10,000 and is assumed to increase at 7% (compound) each year. The discount rate used is 10% per year. The following table shows how the obligation builds up for an employee who is expected to leave at the end of year 5, assuming that there are no changes in actuarial assumptions. For simplicity, this example ignores the additional adjustment needed to reflect the probability that the employee may leave the entity at an earlier or later date.

| Year                             | 1          | 2          | 3          | 4          | 5          |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                                  | \$         | \$         | \$         | \$         | \$         |
| Benefit attributed to:           |            |            |            |            |            |
| Prior years                      | 0          | 131        | 262        | 393        | 524        |
| Current year (1% × final salary) | 131        | 131        | 131        | 131        | 131        |
| Current and prior years          | <u>131</u> | <u>262</u> | <u>393</u> | <u>524</u> | <u>655</u> |
| Opening obligation               | -          | 89         | 196        | 324        | 476        |
| Interest at 10%                  | -          | 9          | 20         | 33         | 48         |
| Current service cost             | 89         | 98         | 108        | 119        | 131        |
| Closing obligation               | <u>89</u>  | <u>196</u> | <u>324</u> | <u>476</u> | <u>655</u> |

Notes:

- (1) The opening obligation is the present value of the benefit attributed to prior years.
- (2) The current service cost is the present value of the benefit attributed to the current year.
- (3) The closing obligation is the present value of the benefit attributed to current and prior years.

## 5.5 Actuarial assumptions

### FAST FORWARD

**Actuarial assumptions** made should be unbiased and based on market expectations.

**Discount rates** used should be determined by reference to market yields on high-quality fixed-rate corporate bonds.

Actuarial assumptions are needed to **estimate the size of the future (post-employment) benefits** that will be payable under a defined benefits scheme. The main categories of actuarial assumptions are as follows.

- (a) **Demographic assumptions** are about mortality rates before and after retirement, the rate of employee turnover, early retirement, claim rates under medical plans for former employees, and so on.
- (b) **Financial assumptions** include future salary levels (allowing for seniority and promotion as well as inflation) and the future rate of increase in medical costs (not just inflationary cost rises, but also cost rises specific to medical treatments and to medical treatments required given the expectations of longer average life expectancy).

The standard requires actuarial assumptions to be neither too cautious nor too imprudent: they should be '**unbiased**'. They should also be based on '**market expectations**' at the year end, over the period during which the obligations will be settled.

## 5.6 The statement of financial position

In the statement of financial position, the amount recognised as a **defined benefit liability** (which may be a negative amount, ie an asset) should be the following.

- (a) The **present value of the defined obligation** at the year end, **minus**
- (b) The **fair value of the assets of the plan** as at the year end (if there are any) out of which the future obligations to current and past employees will be directly settled.

The earlier parts of this section have looked at the recognition and measurement of the defined benefit obligation. Now we will look at issues relating to the assets held in the plan.

## 5.7 Plan assets

**Plan assets** are:

- (a) Assets such as stocks and shares, held by a fund that is legally separate from the reporting entity, which exists solely to pay employee benefits.
- (b) Insurance policies, issued by an insurer that is not a related party, the proceeds of which can only be used to pay employee benefits.

Investments which may be used for purposes other than to pay employee benefits are not plan assets.

The standard requires that the plan assets are measured at fair value, as 'the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date'. You may spot that this definition is slightly different to the revised definition in accordance with IFRS 13 *Fair value measurement* (see [Chapter 7](#)). The two standards were being updated around the same time so the definitions are currently out of step but this should make no difference to the practicalities you will have to deal with in questions, where the fair value is normally stated in the scenario information.

IAS 19 includes the following **specific requirements**:



- (a) The plan assets should exclude any contributions due from the employer but not yet paid.
- (b) Plan assets are reduced by any liabilities of the fund that do not relate to employee benefits, such as trade and other payables.

## 5.8 The statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

All of the gains and losses that affect the plan obligation and plan asset must be recognised. The **components of defined benefit cost must be recognised as follows** in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income:

| <i>Component</i>  | <i>Recognised in</i>                                 |
|---|--|
| (a) <b>Service cost</b>   | Profit or loss                                       |
| (b) <b>Net interest on the net defined benefit liability</b>    | Profit or loss                                       |
| (c) <b>Re-measurements of the net defined benefit liability</b> | Other comprehensive income (not reclassified to P/L) |

## 5.9 Service costs

These comprise:

- (a) **Current service cost**, this is the increase in the present value of the defined benefit obligation resulting from employee services during the period. The measurement and recognition of this cost was introduced in Section 5.1.
- (b) **Past service cost**, which is the change in the obligation relating to service in **prior periods**. This results from amendments or curtailments to the pension plan, and
- (c) Any **gain or loss on settlement**.

The detail relating to points (b) and (c) above will be covered in a later section. First, we will continue with the basic elements of accounting for defined benefit pension costs.

## 5.10 Net interest on the defined benefit liability (asset)

In Section 5.1 we looked at the recognition and measurement of the defined benefit obligation. This figure is the discounted **present value** of the future benefits payable. Every year the discount must be 'unwound', increasing the present value of the obligation as time passes through an interest charge.

### 5.10.1 Interest calculation

IAS 19 requires that the interest should be calculated on the **net defined benefit liability (asset)**. This means that the amount recognised in profit or loss is the net of the interest charge on the obligation and the interest income recognised on the assets.

The calculation is as follows:

$$\boxed{\text{Net defined benefit liability/(asset)}} \times \boxed{\text{Discount rate}}$$

The **net defined benefit liability/(asset)** should be measured as at the **start** of the accounting period, taking account of changes during the period as a result of contributions paid into the scheme and benefits paid out.

Many exam questions include the assumption that all payments into and out of the scheme take place at the end of the year, so that the interest calculations can be based on the opening balances.



### 5.10.2 Discount rate

The **discount rate** adopted should be determined by reference to **market yields** on high quality fixed-rate corporate bonds. In the absence of a 'deep' market in such bonds, the yields on comparable government bonds should be used as reference instead. The maturity of the corporate bonds that are used to determine a discount rate should have a term to maturity that is consistent with the expected maturity of the post-employment benefit obligations, although a single weighted average discount rate is sufficient.

The guidelines comment that there may be some difficulty in obtaining a **reliable yield for long-term maturities**, say 30 or 40 years from now. This should not, however, be a significant problem: the present value of obligations payable in many years time will be relatively small and unlikely to be a significant proportion of the total defined benefit obligation. The total obligation is therefore unlikely to be sensitive to errors in the assumption about the discount rate for long-term maturities (beyond the maturities of long-term corporate or government bonds).

## 5.11 Re-measurements of the net defined benefit liability

Re-measurements of the net defined benefit liability/(asset) comprise:

- (a) Actuarial gains and losses;
- (b) The return on plan assets, (excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset)); and
- (c) Any change in the effect of the asset ceiling, (excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset)).

The gains and losses relating to points (a) and (b) above will arise in every defined benefit scheme so we will look at these in this section. The asset ceiling is a complication that is not relevant in every case, so it is dealt with separately, later in the chapter.

### 5.11.1 Actuarial gains and losses

#### FAST FORWARD

**Actuarial gains and losses** arise for several reasons, and IAS 19 requires these to be recognised, in full in other comprehensive income.

At the end of each accounting period, a new valuation, using updated assumptions, should be carried out on the obligation. Actuarial gains or losses arise because of the following.

- **Actual events** (eg employee turnover, salary increases) differ from the actuarial assumptions that were made to estimate the defined benefit obligations
- The effect of **changes to assumptions** concerning benefit payment options
- **Estimates are revised** (eg different assumptions are made about future employee turnover, salary rises, mortality rates, and so on)
- The effect of changes to the **discount rate**

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised in **other comprehensive income**. They are **not reclassified to profit or loss** under the 2011 revision to IAS 1 (see [Chapter 18](#)).

### 5.11.2 Return on plan assets

#### FAST FORWARD

The **return on plan assets** must be calculated.

A new valuation of the plan assets is carried out at each period end, using current fair values. Any difference between the new value, and what has been recognised up to that date (normally the opening balance, interest, and any cash payments into or out of the plan) is treated as a 're-measurement' and recognised in other comprehensive income.

## 5.12 Example

At 1 January 20X2 the fair value of the assets of a defined benefit plan were valued at \$1,100,000 and the present value of the defined benefit obligation was \$1,250,000. On 31 December 20X2, the plan received contributions from the employer of \$490,000 and paid out benefits of \$190,000.

The current service cost for the year was \$360,000 and a discount rate of 6% is to be applied to the net liability/(asset).

After these transactions, the fair value of the plan's assets at 31 December 20X2 was \$1.5m. The present value of the defined benefit obligation was \$1,553,600.

### Required

Calculate the gains or losses on remeasurement through OCI and the return on plan assets and illustrate how this pension plan will be treated in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and statement of financial position for the year ended 31 December 20X2.

### Solution

It is always useful to set up a working reconciling the assets and obligation:

|  | Assets<br>\$     | Obligation<br>\$ |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Fair value/present value at 1/1/X2   | 1,100,000        | 1,250,000        |
| Interest $(1,100,000 \times 6\%) / (1,250,000 \times 6\%)$                       | 66,000           | 75,000           |
| Current service cost   |                  | 360,000          |
| Contributions received   | 490,000          |                  |
| Benefits paid  | (190,000)        | (190,000)        |
| Return on plan assets excluding amounts in net interest (balancing figure) (OCI) | 34,000           | -                |
| Loss on re-measurement (balancing figure) (OCI)                                  | -                | 58,600           |
|  | <u>1,500,000</u> | <u>1,553,600</u> |

The following accounting treatment is required.

- (a) In the **statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income**, the following amounts will be recognised

In **profit or loss**:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
|   | \$      |
| Current service cost  | 360,000 |
| Net interest on net defined benefit liability $(75,000 - 66,000)$ | 9,000   |

In **other comprehensive income**  $(34,000 - 58,600)$  24,600

- (b) In the **statement of financial position**, the net defined benefit liability of \$53,600  $(1,553,600 - 1,500,000)$  will be recognised.

## 5.13 Section summary

The recognition and measurement of defined benefit plan costs are complex issues.

- Learn and understand the definitions of the various elements of a defined benefit pension plan
- Learn the **outline of the method of accounting** (see Paragraph 5.1)
- Learn the recognition method for the:
  - Statement of financial position
  - Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

## 6 Defined benefit plans: other matters

We have now covered the basics of accounting for defined benefit plans. This section looks at the special circumstances of past service costs, curtailments and settlements.

### 6.1 Past service cost and gains and losses on settlement

#### FAST FORWARD

You should know how to deal with **past service costs and curtailments and settlements**.

In Paragraph 5.9 we identified that the total service cost may comprise not only the current service costs but other items, past service cost and gains and losses on settlement. This section explain these issues and their accounting treatment.

#### 6.1.1 Past service cost

Past service cost is the change in the present value of the defined benefit obligation resulting from a plan **amendment** or **curtailment**.

A plan **amendment** arises when an entity either introduces a defined benefits plan or **changes the benefits payable** under an existing plan. As a result, the entity has taken on additional obligations that it has not hitherto provided for. For example, an employer might decide to introduce a medical benefits scheme for former employees. This will create a new defined benefit obligation, that has not yet been provided for.

A **curtailment occurs when an entity significantly reduces the number of employees covered by a plan**. This could result from an isolated event, such as closing a plant, discontinuing an operation or the termination or suspension of a plan.

Past service costs can be either **positive** (if the changes increase the obligation) or **negative** (if the change reduces the obligation).

#### 6.1.2 Gains and losses on settlement

A **settlement** occurs either when an employer enters into a transaction to eliminate part or all of its post-employment benefit obligations (other than a payment of benefits to or on behalf of employees under the terms of the plan and included in the actuarial assumptions).

A curtailment and settlement might **happen together**, for example when an employer brings a defined benefit plan to an end by settling the obligation with a one-off lump sum payment and then scrapping the plan.

The gain or losses on a settlement is the difference between:

- (a) The **present value of the defined benefit obligation** being settled, as valued on the date of the settlement; and
- (b) The **settlement price**, including any plan assets transferred and any payments made by the entity directly in connection with the settlement.

#### 6.1.3 Accounting for past service cost and gains and losses on settlement

An entity should **remeasure the obligation** (and the related plan assets, if any) using current actuarial assumptions, before determining past service cost or a gain or loss on settlement.

The rules for recognition for these items are as follows.

**Past service costs** are recognised at the earlier of the following dates:

- (a) When the plan amendment or curtailment occurs, and
- (b) When the entity recognises related restructuring costs (in accordance with IAS 37, see [Chapter 9](#)) or termination benefits.

## 6.2 Asset ceiling test

When we looked at the recognition of the net defined benefit liability/(asset) in the statement of financial position at the beginning of Section 5 the term 'asset ceiling' was mentioned. This term relates to a threshold established by IAS 19 to ensure that any defined benefit asset (ie a pension surplus) is carried at **no more than its recoverable amount**. In simple terms, this means that any net asset is restricted to the amount of cash savings that will be available to the entity in future.

## 6.3 Net defined benefit assets

A net defined benefit asset may arise if the plan has been overfunded or if actuarial gains have arisen. This meets the definition of an asset (as stated in the *Conceptual Framework*) because **all** of the following apply.

- (a) The entity **controls a resource** (the ability to use the surplus to generate future benefits).
- (b) That control is the **result of past events** (contributions paid by the entity and service rendered by the employee).
- (c) **Future benefits** are available to the entity in the form of a reduction in future contributions or a cash refund, either directly or indirectly to another plan in deficit.

The **asset ceiling** is the **present value** of those future benefits. The **discount rate used is the same** as that used to calculate the net interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset). The net defined benefit asset would be reduced to the asset ceiling threshold. Any related write down would be treated as a **re-measurement** and recognised in **other comprehensive income**.

If the asset ceiling adjustment was needed in a subsequent year, the changes in its value would be treated as follows:

- (a) **Interest** (as it is a discounted amount) recognised in profit or loss as part of the net interest amount
- (b) **Other changes** recognised in profit or loss.

## 6.4 Suggested approach and question

The suggested approach to defined benefit schemes is to deal with the change in the obligation and asset in the following order.

| Step | Item   | Recognition   |
|------|--|---|
| 1    | <b>Record opening figures:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Asset</li><li>Obligation</li></ul>  |   |
| 2    | <b>Interest cost on obligation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Based on discount rate and PV obligation at start of period.</li><li>Should also reflect any changes in obligation during period.</li></ul>                                     | DEBIT <i>Interest cost (P/L)</i><br><i>(<math>x\% \times b/d</math> obligation)</i><br>CREDIT <i>PV defined benefit obligation (SOFP)</i> |
| 3    | <b>Interest on plan assets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Based on discount rate and asset value at start of period.</li><li>Technically, this interest is also time apportioned on contributions less benefits paid in the period.</li></ul> | DEBIT <i>Plan assets (SOFP)</i><br>CREDIT <i>Interest cost (P/L)</i><br><i>(<math>x\% \times b/d</math> assets)</i>                       |

| Step | Item   | Recognition  |
|------|--|--|
| 4    | <b>Current service cost</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the present value of the obligation resulting from employee service in the current period.</li> </ul>   | DEBIT <i>Current service cost (P/L)</i><br>CREDIT <i>PV defined benefit obligation (SOFP)</i>  |
| 5    | <b>Contributions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As advised by actuary.</li> </ul>  | DEBIT <i>Plan assets (SOFP)</i><br>CREDIT <i>Company cash</i>  |
| 6    | <b>Benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actual pension payments made.</li> </ul>  | DEBIT <i>PV defined benefit obligation (SOFP)</i><br>CREDIT <i>Plan assets (SOFP)</i>  |
| 7    | <b>Past service cost</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase/decrease in PV obligation as a result of introduction or improvement of benefits.</li> </ul>  | <b>Positive (increase in obligation):</b><br>DEBIT <i>Past service cost (P/L)</i><br>CREDIT <i>PV defined benefit obligation (SOFP)</i><br><b>Negative (decrease in obligation):</b><br>DEBIT <i>PV defined benefit obligation (SOFP)</i><br>CREDIT <i>Past service cost (P/L)</i> |
| 8    | <b>Gains and losses on settlement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difference between the value of the obligation being settled and the settlement price.</li> </ul>   | <b>Gain</b><br>DEBIT <i>PV defined benefit obligation (SOFP)</i><br>CREDIT <i>Service cost (P/L)</i><br><b>Loss</b><br>DEBIT <i>Service cost (P/L)</i><br>CREDIT <i>PV defined benefit obligation (SOFP)</i>   |
| 9    | <b>Re-measurements: actuarial gains and losses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arising from annual valuations of obligation.</li> <li>On obligation, differences between actuarial assumptions and actual experience during the period, or changes in actuarial assumptions.</li> </ul> | <b>Gain</b><br>DEBIT <i>PV defined benefit obligation (SOFP)</i><br>CREDIT <i>Other comprehensive income</i><br><b>Loss</b><br>DEBIT <i>Other comprehensive income</i><br>CREDIT <i>PV defined benefit obligation (SOFP)</i>   |
| 10   | <b>Re-measurements: return on assets (excluding amounts in net-interest)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arising from annual valuations of plan assets</li> </ul>   | <b>Gain</b><br>DEBIT <i>FV plan assets (SOFP)</i><br>CREDIT <i>Other comprehensive income</i><br><b>Loss</b><br>DEBIT <i>Other comprehensive income</i><br>CREDIT <i>FV plan assets (SOFP)</i>   |
| 11   | <b>Disclose in accordance with the standard</b>  | See comprehensive question.  |

### Exam focus point

It would be useful for you to do one last question on accounting for post-employment defined benefit schemes. Questions on these are likely in the exam.



For the sake of simplicity and clarity, all transactions are assumed to occur at the year end.

The following data applies to the post employment defined benefit compensation scheme of BCD Co.

Discount rate: 10% (each year)

Present value of obligation at start of 20X2: \$1m

Market value of plan assets at start of 20X2: \$1m

The following figures are relevant.

|   | 20X2   | 20X3   | 20X4   |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
|   | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Current service cost                    | 140    | 150    | 150    |
| Benefits paid out                       | 120    | 140    | 150    |
| Contributions paid by entity            | 110    | 120    | 120    |
| Present value of obligation at year end | 1,200  | 1,650  | 1,700  |
| Fair value of plan assets at year end   | 1,250  | 1,450  | 1,610  |

Additional information:

- (1) At the end of 20X3, a division of the company was sold. As a result of this, a large number of the employees of that division opted to transfer their accumulated pension entitlement to their new employer's plan. Assets with a fair value of \$48,000 were transferred to the other company's plan and the actuary has calculated that the reduction in BCD's defined benefit liability is \$50,000. The year end valuations in the table above were carried out **before** this transfer was recorded.
- (2) At the end of 20X4, a decision was taken to make a one-off additional payment to former employees currently receiving pensions from the plan. This was announced to the former employees before the year end. This payment was not allowed for in the original terms of the scheme. The actuarial valuation of the obligation in the table above **includes** the additional liability of \$40,000 relating to this additional payment.

*Required*

Show how the reporting entity should account for this defined benefit plan in each of years 20X2, 20X3 and 20X4.

## Answer

The actuarial gain or loss is established as a balancing figure in the calculations, as follows.

*Present value of obligation*

|   | 20X2         | 20X3           | 20X4         |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|   | \$'000       | \$'000         | \$'000       |
| PV of obligation at start of year                     | 1,000        | 1,200          | 1,600        |
| Interest cost (10%)                                   | 100          | 120            | 160          |
| Current service cost                                  | 140          | 150            | 150          |
| Past service cost                                     |              |                | 40           |
| Benefits paid   | (120)        | (140)          | (150)        |
| Settlements   |              | (50)           |              |
| Actuarial (gain)/loss on obligation: balancing figure | 80           | 320            | (100)        |
| PV of obligation at end of year                       | <u>1,200</u> | <u>1,600</u> * | <u>1,700</u> |

\*(1,650 – 50)

### Market value of plan assets

|   | 20X2         | 20X3          | 20X4         |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|   | \$'000       | \$'000        | \$'000       |
| Market value of plan assets at start of year        | 1,000        | 1,250         | 1,402        |
| Interest on plan assets (10%)                       | 100          | 125           | 140          |
| Contributions                                       | 110          | 120           | 120          |
| Benefits paid                                       | (120)        | (140)         | (150)        |
| Settlements   | -            | (48)          | -            |
| Gain on remeasurement through OCI: balancing figure | 160          | 95            | 98           |
| Market value of plan assets at year end             | <u>1,250</u> | <u>1,402*</u> | <u>1,610</u> |

\*(1,450 – 48)

In the statement of financial position, the liability that is recognised is calculated as follows.

|  | 20X2         | 20X3         | 20X4         |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|  | \$'000       | \$'000       | \$'000       |
| Present value of obligation                          | 1,200        | 1,600        | 1,700        |
| Market value of plan assets                          | <u>1,250</u> | <u>1,402</u> | <u>1,610</u> |
| Liability/(asset) in statement of financial position | <u>(50)</u>  | <u>198</u>   | <u>90</u>    |

The following will be recognised in profit or loss for the year:

|   | 20X2       | 20X3       | 20X4       |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
|   | \$'000     | \$'000     | \$'000     |
| Current service cost                              | 140        | 150        | 150        |
| Past service cost                                 | -          | -          | 40         |
| Net interest on defined benefit liability (asset) | -          | (5)        | 20         |
| Gain on settlement of defined benefit liability   | -          | 2          | -          |
| Expense recognised in profit or loss              | <u>140</u> | <u>147</u> | <u>210</u> |

The following re-measurements will be recognised in other comprehensive income for the year:

|   | 20X2         | 20X3        | 20X4        |
|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | \$'000       | \$'000      | \$'000      |
| Actuarial (gain)/loss on obligation                       | 80           | 320         | (100)       |
| Return on plan assets (excluding amounts in net-interest) | <u>(160)</u> | <u>(95)</u> | <u>(98)</u> |

## 7 Other long term benefits

### 7.1 Definition

IAS 19 defines **other long-term employee benefits** as all employee benefits other than short-term employee benefits, post-employment benefits and termination benefits if not expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service.

The types of benefits that might fall into this category include:

- (a) Long-term paid absences such as long-service or sabbatical leave
- (b) Jubilee or other long-service benefits
- (c) Long-term disability benefits; profit-sharing and bonuses
- (d) Deferred remuneration

### 7.2 Accounting treatment for other long-term benefits

There are many similarities between these types of benefits and defined benefit pensions. For example, in a long-term bonus scheme, the employees may provide service over a number of periods to earn their

entitlement to a payment at a later date. In some case, the entity may put cash aside, or invest it in some way (perhaps by taking out an insurance policy) to meet the liabilities when they arise.

As there is normally far less uncertainty relating to the measurement of these benefits, IAS 19 requires a simpler method of accounting for them. Unlike the accounting method for post-employment benefits, this method does **not recognise re-measurements in other comprehensive income**.

The entity should recognise all of the following in **profit or loss**.

- (a) **Service cost**
- (b) **Net interest** on the defined benefit liability (asset)
- (c) **Re-measurement** of the defined benefit liability (asset)

## 8 Disclosures

### 8.1 Principles of disclosures required by IAS 19

The outline requirements are for the entity to disclose information that:

- (a) Explains the characteristics of its defined benefit plans and risks associated with them;
- (b) Identifies and explains the amounts in its financial statements arising from its defined benefit plans; and
- (c) Describes how its defined benefit plans may affect the amount, timing and uncertainty of the entity's future cash flows.

## 9 Other issues

### 9.1 Revisions to IAS 19

In June 2011, the IASB issued a revised version of *IAS 19 Employee benefits*. It is the revised version that has been covered in this chapter. The purpose of the revision is to improve accounting in the short-term for employee benefits in the light of criticisms of the current IAS 19 by users and preparers of financial statements, including the US SEC and the EU's European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (that approves IFRS for use in the EU). In the long term, the IASB intends to produce a common IASB-FASB standard, but recognises that this will take many years to complete.

Accounting for employee benefits, particularly retirement benefits, had been seen as **problematic** in the following respects:

- (a) **Income statement (statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income) treatment.** It has been argued that the complexity of the presentation makes the treatment hard to understand and the splitting up of the various components is arbitrary.
- (b) **Fair value and volatility.** The fair value of plan assets may be volatile, and values in the statement of financial position may fluctuate. However, not all those fluctuations are recognised in the statement of financial position.
- (c) **Fair value and economic reality.** Fair value, normally market value, is used to value plan assets. This may not reflect economic reality, because fair values fluctuate in the short term, while pension scheme assets and liabilities are held for the long term. It could be argued that plan assets should be valued on an actuarial basis instead.
- (d) **Problems in determining the discount rate used in measuring the defined benefit obligation.** Guidance is contradictory.



The revised version of IAS 19 was designed to tackle some of the criticisms of the previous version of the standard. It is a short-term measure, as some of the most controversial aspects of accounting for defined benefit plans will take years to resolve and the IASB will revisit these in a later project.

In June 2012, students were asked to show the correct treatment where the old rules had been wrongly applied.

## 9.2 The main changes

### 9.2.1 Scope

Because the revised standard is a short-term measure, its **scope is limited to** the following areas.

- (a) Recognition of gains and losses arising from defined benefit plans
- (b) Presentation of changes in value of the defined benefit obligation and assets

However, the IASB recognises that the scope **could be expanded** to include items such as:

- (a) **Recognition of the obligation based on the 'benefit' formula.** This current approach means that unvested benefits are recognised as a liability which is inconsistent with other IFRSs.
- (b) **Measurement of the obligation.** The 'projected unit credit method' (as defined before) is used which is based on expected benefits (including salary increases). Alternative approaches include accumulated benefit, projected benefit, fair value and settlement value.
- (c) **Presenting of a net defined benefit obligation.** Defined benefit plan assets and liabilities are currently presented net on the grounds that the fund is not controlled (which would require consolidation of the fund).
- (d) **Multi-employer plans.** Current accounting is normally for the entity's proportionate share of the obligation, plan assets and costs as for a single-employer plan, but an exemption is currently provided where sufficient information is not available, and defined contribution accounting can be used instead. Should the exemption be removed?
- (e) Accounting for **benefits that are based on contributions and a promised return.**

### 9.2.2 The main changes

#### (a) Actuarial gains and losses

- (i) The revised standard requires actuarial gains and losses to be **recognised in the period incurred**.
- (ii) The previous standard permitted a range of choices for the recognition of actuarial gains and losses:
  - (1) Immediate recognition in other comprehensive income (as now) was permitted
  - (2) Deferral of actuarial gains and losses was permitted through what was known as the 'corridor' method. The 'corridor' was defined as the higher of 10% of the opening plan assets or 10% of the opening plan obligation. If the accumulated actuarial gains and losses brought forward exceeded the corridor, the excess would then be divided by the average remaining service lives of employees in the scheme and this amount recognised in profit or loss. The balance of unrecognised gains and losses was carried on the statement of financial position.
  - (3) Actuarial gains and losses could also be recognised in profit or loss on any other systematic basis, subject to the 'corridor' amount as a minimum.
- (iii) The changes will improve comparability between companies and will also eliminate some of the anomalies where the effect of unrecognised actuarial gains and losses (and

unrecognised past service costs (see point (d) below) could turn a deficit into a surplus on the statement of financial position.

(b) **Re-measurements**

- (i) The revised standard introduced the term 're-measurements'. This is made up of the actuarial gains and losses on the defined benefit obligation, the difference between actual investment returns and the return implied by the net interest cost and the effect of the asset ceiling. Re-measurements are recognised immediately in other comprehensive income and **not** reclassified to profit or loss.
- (ii) This reduces diversity of presentation that was possible under the previous standard.

(c) **Net interest cost**

- (i) The revised standard requires interest to be calculated on **both** the plan assets and plan obligation at the same rate and the **net** interest to be recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. The rationale for this is the view that the **net** defined benefit liability/(asset) is equivalent to an amount owed by the company to the plan.
- (ii) The difference under the previous standard was that an 'Expected return on assets' was calculated, based on assumptions about the long term rates of return on the particular classes of asset held within the plan.

(d) **Past service costs**

- (i) The revised standard requires all past service costs to be recognised in the period of plan amendment.
- (ii) The previous standard made a distinction between past service costs that were **vested** (all past service costs related to former employees and those that related to current employees and not subject to any condition relating to further service) and those that were **not vested** (relating to current employees and where the entitlement was subject to further service). Only **vested** past service costs were recognised in profit or loss, and unvested benefits were deferred, and spread over remaining service lives.

## Chapter Roundup

- **IAS 19 Employee benefits** is a long and complex standard covering both short-term and long-term (post-employment) benefits. The complications arise when dealing with **post-employment benefits**.
- The accounting for **short-term employee benefits** is simple. The principles are the same as for any expense that is accrued over a period.
- There are **two types of post-employment benefit plan**:
  - Defined contribution plans
  - Defined benefit plans
- **Defined contribution plans** are simple to account for as the benefits are defined by the contributions made.
- **Defined benefit plans** are much more difficult to deal with as the benefits are promised, they define the contributions to be made.
- There is a **four-step method** for recognising and measuring the expenses and liability of a defined benefit pension plan.
- **Actuarial assumptions** made should be unbiased and based on market expectations.
- **Discount rates** used should be determined by reference to market yields on high-quality fixed-rate corporate bonds.
- **Actuarial gains and losses** arise for several reasons, and IAS 19 requires these to be recognised, in full in other comprehensive income.
- The **return on plan assets** must be calculated.
- You should know how to deal with **past service costs** and **curtailments** and **settlements**.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 What are the four categories of employee benefits given by IAS 19?
- 2 What is the difference between defined contribution and defined benefit plans?
- 3 What is a 'constructive obligation' compared to a legal obligation?
- 4 How should a defined benefit expense be recognised in profit or loss for the year?
- 5 What causes actuarial gains or losses?

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1
  - Short-term
  - Post-employment
  - Other long-term
  - Termination
  - Equity compensation
- 2 See Paragraph 3.1.
- 3 A constructive obligation exists when the entity has no realistic alternative than to pay employee benefits.
- 4 Current service cost + interest + expected return + recognised actuarial gains/losses + past service cost + curtailments or settlements.
- 5 Gains or losses due to changes in actuarial assumptions.

Now try the question below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level        | Marks | Time    |
|--------|--------------|-------|---------|
| Q7     | Introductory | 12    | 22 mins |

# 6

## Income taxes

| Topic list                                    | Syllabus reference |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 Current tax revised                         | C7                 |
| 2 Deferred tax                                | C7                 |
| 3 Taxable temporary differences               | C7                 |
| 4 Deductible temporary differences            | C7                 |
| 5 Measurement and recognition of deferred tax | C7                 |
| 6 Deferred taxation and business combinations | C7                 |

### Introduction

In almost all countries entities are taxed on the basis of their trading income. In some countries this may be called corporation or corporate tax, but we will follow the terminology of IAS 12 *Income taxes* and call it **income tax**.

There are two main systems for taxing corporate income: the **classical system** and the **imputation system**: go back to your earlier study material if necessary. For this chapter we will assume a classical system. Of course, each country will be different in its tax legislation and its method of accounting for taxation may reflect this.

There are two aspects of income tax which must be accounted for: **current tax** and **deferred tax**. Current tax is revised briefly in Section 1. The rest of this chapter is concerned with deferred tax, which students invariably find difficult.

Section 6 introduces a new aspect of deferred tax, relating to **business combinations**. This represents one of the most complex areas of deferred tax.

*Note.* Throughout this chapter we will assume a current corporate income tax rate of 30% and a current personal income tax rate of 20%, unless otherwise stated.

## Study guide

|     |   | Intellectual level |
|-----|---|--------------------|
| C7  | Income taxes  |                    |
| (a) | Apply and discuss the recognition and measurement of deferred tax liabilities and deferred tax assets | 3                  |
| (b) | Determine the recognition of tax expenses or income and its inclusion in the financial statements     | 3                  |

## Exam guide

Be prepared for a whole question on deferred tax, as happened on the Pilot Paper, when you were asked to discuss the conceptual basis for its accounting treatment and to calculate the deferred tax provision after making adjustments.

## 1 Current tax revised

### FAST FORWARD

Taxation consists of **two components**.

- Current tax
- Deferred tax

Current tax is ordinarily straightforward. Complexities arise, however, when we consider the future tax consequences of what is going on in the accounts now. This is an aspect of tax called deferred tax, which we will look at in the next section. IAS 12 *Income taxes* covers both current and deferred tax. The parts relating to current tax are fairly brief, because this is the simple and uncontroversial area of tax.

### 1.1 Definitions

These are some of the definitions given in IAS 12. We will look at the rest later.

#### Key terms

**Accounting profit.** Net profit or loss for a period before deducting tax expense.

**Taxable profit (tax loss).** The profit (loss) for a period, determined in accordance with the rules established by the taxation authorities, upon which income taxes are payable (recoverable).

**Tax expense (tax income).** The aggregate amount included in the determination of net profit or loss for the period in respect of current tax and deferred tax.

**Current tax.** The amount of income taxes payable (recoverable) in respect of the taxable profit (tax loss) for a period. (IAS 12)

Remember the difference between current and deferred tax.

- Current tax** is the amount *actually payable* to the tax authorities in relation to the trading activities of the entity during the period.
- Deferred tax** is an *accounting measure*, used to match the tax effects of transactions with their accounting impact and thereby produce less distorted results.

### 1.2 Recognition of current tax liabilities and assets

### FAST FORWARD

**Current tax** is the amount payable to the tax authorities in relation to the trading activities during the period. It is generally straightforward.

IAS 12 requires any **unpaid tax** in respect of the current or prior periods to be recognised as a **liability**.

Conversely, any **excess tax** paid in respect of current or prior periods over what is due should be recognised as an asset.



## Question

## Current tax

In 20X8 Darton Co had taxable profits of \$120,000. In the previous year (20X7) income tax on 20X7 profits had been estimated as \$30,000.

*Required*

Calculate tax payable and the charge for 20X8 if the tax due on 20X7 profits was subsequently agreed with the tax authorities as:

- (a) \$35,000
- (b) \$25,000

Any under- or over-payments are not settled until the following year's tax payment is due.

## Answer

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| (a)   |                |
|   | \$             |
| Tax due on 20X8 profits ( $\$120,000 \times 30\%$ ) | 40,000         |
| Underpayment for 20X7                               | <u>5,000</u>   |
| Tax charge and liability                            | <u>45,000</u>  |
| (b)   |                |
|   | \$             |
| Tax due on 20X8 profits (as above)                  | 40,000         |
| Overpayment for 20X7                                | <u>(5,000)</u> |
| Tax charge and liability                            | <u>35,000</u>  |

Alternatively, the rebate due could be shown separately as income in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and as an asset in the statement of financial position. An offset approach like this is, however, most likely.

Taking this a stage further, IAS 12 also requires recognition as an asset of the benefit relating to any tax loss that can be **carried back** to recover current tax of a previous period. This is acceptable because it is probable that the benefit will flow to the entity *and* it can be reliably measured.

### 1.3 Example: Tax losses carried back

In 20X7 Eramu Co paid \$50,000 in tax on its profits. In 20X8 the company made tax losses of \$24,000. The local tax authority rules allow losses to be carried back to offset against current tax of prior years.

*Required*

Show the tax charge and tax liability for 20X8.

### Solution

Tax repayment due on tax losses =  $30\% \times \$24,000 = \$7,200$ .

The double entry will be:

|        |  |         |         |
|--------|--|---------|---------|
| DEBIT  | Tax receivable (statement of financial position )                          | \$7,200 |         |
| CREDIT | Tax repayment (statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income) |         | \$7,200 |

The tax receivable will be shown as an asset until the repayment is received from the tax authorities.

## 1.4 Measurement

Measurement of current tax liabilities (assets) for the current and prior periods is very simple. They are measured at the **amount expected to be paid to (recovered from) the tax authorities**. The tax rates (and tax laws) used should be those enacted (or substantively enacted) by the year end.

## 1.5 Recognition of current tax

Normally, current tax is recognised as income or expense and included in the net profit or loss for the period, except in two cases.

- (a) Tax arising from a **business combination** which is an acquisition is treated differently (see Section 6 of this chapter).
- (b) Tax arising from a transaction or event which is recognised **directly in equity** (in the same or a different period).

The rule in (b) is logical. If a transaction or event is charged or credited directly to equity, rather than to profit or loss, then the related tax should be also. An example of such a situation is where, under IAS 8, an adjustment is made to the **opening balance of retained earnings** due to either a change in accounting policy that is applied retrospectively, or to the correction of a fundamental error.

## 1.6 Presentation

In the statement of financial position, **tax assets and liabilities** should be shown separately from other assets and liabilities.

Current tax assets and liabilities can be **offset**, but this should happen only when certain conditions apply.

- (a) The entity has a **legally enforceable right** to set off the recognised amounts.
- (b) The entity intends to settle the amounts on a **net basis**, or to realise the asset and settle the liability at the same time.

The **tax expense (income)** related to the profit or loss for the year should be shown in the profit or loss section of the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

# 2 Deferred tax

12/07, 6/10, 6/12

### FAST FORWARD

**Deferred tax** is an accounting measure, used to match the tax effects of transactions with their accounting impact. It is quite complex.

### Exam focus point

Students invariably find deferred tax very confusing. It is an inherently difficult topic and as such it likely to appear frequently in its most complicated forms in Paper P2. You *must* understand the contents of the rest of this chapter.

## 2.1 What is deferred tax?

When a company recognises an asset or liability, it expects to **recover or settle the carrying amount** of that asset or liability. In other words, it expects to sell or use up assets, and to pay off liabilities. What happens if that recovery or settlement is likely to make future tax payments larger (or smaller) than they would otherwise have been if the recovery or settlement had no tax consequences? In these circumstances, IAS 12 requires companies to recognise a **deferred tax liability** (or **deferred tax asset**).

## 2.2 Definitions

Here are the definitions relating to deferred tax given in IAS 12.



## Key terms

**Deferred tax liabilities** are the amounts of income taxes payable in future periods in respect of taxable temporary differences.

**Deferred tax assets** are the amounts of income taxes recoverable in future periods in respect of:

- Deductible temporary differences
- The carryforward of unused tax losses
- The carryforward of unused tax credits

**Temporary differences** are differences between the carrying amount of an asset or liability in the statement of financial position and its tax base. Temporary differences may be either:

- **Taxable temporary differences**, which are temporary differences that will result in taxable amounts in determining taxable profit (tax loss) of future periods when the carrying amount of the asset or liability is recovered or settled
- **Deductible temporary differences**, which are temporary differences that will result in amounts that are deductible in determining taxable profit (tax loss) of future periods when the carrying amount of the asset or liability is recovered or settled.

The **tax base** of an asset or liability is the amount attributed to that asset or liability for tax purposes.

(IAS 12)

## 2.3 Tax base

We can expand on the definition given above by stating that the **tax base of an asset** is the amount that will be deductible for tax purposes against any taxable economic benefits that will flow to the entity when it recovers the carrying value of the asset. Where those economic benefits are not taxable, the tax base of the asset is the same as its carrying amount.



### Question

### Tax base 1

State the tax base of each of the following assets.

- A machine cost \$10,000. For tax purposes, depreciation of \$3,000 has already been deducted in the current and prior periods and the remaining cost will be deductible in future periods, either as depreciation or through a deduction on disposal. Revenue generated by using the machine is taxable, any gain on disposal of the machine will be taxable and any loss on disposal will be deductible for tax purposes.
- Interest receivable has a carrying amount of \$1,000. The related interest revenue will be taxed on a cash basis.
- Trade receivables have a carrying amount of \$10,000. The related revenue has already been included in taxable profit (tax loss).
- A loan receivable has a carrying amount of \$1m. The repayment of the loan will have no tax consequences.
- Dividends receivable from a subsidiary have a carrying amount of \$5,000. The dividends are not taxable.

### Answer

- The tax base of the machine is \$7,000.
- The tax base of the interest receivable is nil.
- The tax base of the trade receivables is \$10,000.
- The tax base of the loan is \$1m.
- The tax base of the dividend is \$5,000.

In the case of (e), in substance the entire carrying amount of the asset is deductible against the economic benefits. There is no taxable temporary difference. An alternative analysis is that the accrued dividends receivable have a tax base of nil and a tax rate of nil is applied to the resulting taxable temporary difference (\$5,000). Under both analyses, there is no deferred tax liability.

In the case of a **liability**, the tax base will be its carrying amount, less any amount that will be deducted for tax purposes in relation to the liability in future periods. For revenue received in advance, the tax base of the resulting liability is its carrying amount, less any amount of the revenue that will *not* be taxable in future periods.



## Question

## Tax base 2

State the tax base of each of the following liabilities.

- (a) Current liabilities include accrued expenses with a carrying amount of \$1,000. The related expense will be deducted for tax purposes on a cash basis.
- (b) Current liabilities include interest revenue received in advance, with a carrying amount of \$10,000. The related interest revenue was taxed on a cash basis.
- (c) Current assets include prepaid expenses with a carrying amount of \$2,000. The related expense has already been deducted for tax purposes.
- (d) Current liabilities include accrued fines and penalties with a carrying amount of \$100. Fines and penalties are not deductible for tax purposes.
- (e) A loan payable has a carrying amount of \$1m. The repayment of the loan will have no tax consequences.

## Answer

- (a) The tax base of the accrued expenses is nil.
- (b) The tax base of the interest received in advance is nil.
- (c) The tax base of the accrued expenses is \$2,000.
- (d) The tax base of the accrued fines and penalties is \$100.
- (e) The tax base of the loan is \$1m.

IAS 12 gives the following examples of circumstances in which the carrying amount of an asset or liability will be **equal to its tax base**.

- **Pre-paid expenses** have already been deducted in determining an entity's current tax liability for the current or earlier periods.
- A **loan payable** is measured at the amount originally received and this amount is the same as the amount repayable on final maturity of the loan.
- **Accrued expenses** will never be deductible for tax purposes.
- **Accrued income** will never be taxable.

## 2.4 Temporary differences

You may have found the definition of temporary differences somewhat confusing. Remember that accounting profits form the basis for computing **taxable profits**, on which the tax liability for the year is calculated. However, accounting profits and taxable profits are different. There are two reasons for the differences.

- (a) **Permanent differences.** These occur when certain items of revenue or expense are excluded from the computation of taxable profits (for example, entertainment expenses may not be allowable for tax purposes).
- (b) **Temporary differences.** These occur when items of revenue or expense are included in both accounting profits and taxable profits, but not for the same accounting period. For example, an expense which is allowable as a deduction in arriving at taxable profits for 20X7 might not be included in the financial accounts until 20X8 or later. In the long run, the total taxable profits and total accounting profits will be the same (except for permanent differences) so that timing

differences originate in one period and are capable of reversal in one or more subsequent periods.  
Deferred tax is the tax attributable to **temporary differences**.

The distinction made in the definition between **taxable temporary differences** and **deductible temporary differences** can be made clearer by looking at the explanations and examples given in the standard and its appendices.

## 2.5 Section summary

- Deferred tax is an **accounting device**. It does *not* represent tax payable to the tax authorities.
- The **tax base** of an asset or liability is the value of that asset or liability for tax purposes.
- You should understand the difference between **permanent and temporary differences**.
- Deferred tax is the tax attributable to **temporary differences**.

## 3 Taxable temporary differences

### FAST FORWARD

**Deferred tax assets and liabilities** arise from taxable and deductible temporary differences.

### Exam focus point

The rule to remember here is that:

'All taxable temporary differences give rise to a deferred tax liability.'

The following are examples of circumstances that give rise to taxable temporary differences.

### 3.1 Transactions that affect the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

- **Interest revenue** received in arrears and included in accounting profit on the basis of time apportionment. It is included in taxable profit, however, on a cash basis.
- **Sale of goods revenue** is included in accounting profit when the goods are delivered, but only included in taxable profit when cash is received.
- **Depreciation** of an asset may be accelerated for tax purposes. When new assets are purchased, allowances may be available against taxable profits which exceed the amount of depreciation chargeable on the assets in the financial accounts for the year of purchase.
- **Development costs** which have been capitalised will be amortised in profit or loss, but they were deducted in full from taxable profit in the period in which they were incurred.
- **Prepaid expenses** have already been deducted on a cash basis in determining the taxable profit of the current or previous periods.

### 3.2 Transactions that affect the statement of financial position

- **Depreciation of an asset** is not deductible for tax purposes. No deduction will be available for tax purposes when the asset is sold/scrapped.
- A borrower records a **loan** at proceeds received (amount due at maturity) less transaction costs. The carrying amount of the loan is subsequently increased by amortisation of the transaction costs against accounting profit. The transaction costs were, however, deducted for tax purposes in the period when the loan was first recognised.
- A **loan** payable is measured on initial recognition at net proceeds (net of transaction costs). The transaction costs are amortised to accounting profit over the life of the loan. Those transaction costs are not deductible in determining the taxable profit of future, current or prior periods.
- The liability component of a **compound financial instrument** (eg a convertible bond) is measured at a discount to the amount repayable on maturity, after assigning a portion of the cash proceeds to the equity component (see IAS 32). The discount is not deductible in determining taxable profit.

### 3.3 Fair value adjustments and revaluations

- **Current investments** or financial instruments are carried at fair value. This exceeds cost, but no equivalent adjustment is made for tax purposes.
- Property, plant and equipment is **revalued** by an entity (under IAS 16), but no equivalent adjustment is made for tax purposes. This also applies to long-term investments.

The standard also looks at the deferred tax implications of business combinations and consolidations. We will look at these in Section 6.

Remember the rule we gave you above, that all taxable temporary differences give rise to a deferred tax liability? There are **two circumstances** given in the standards where this does *not* apply.

- (a) The deferred tax liability arises from the initial recognition of goodwill.
- (b) The deferred tax liability arises from the initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction which:
  - (i) Is *not* a business combination (see Section 6), *and*
  - (ii) At the time of the transaction affects neither accounting profit nor taxable profit.

Try to **understand the reasoning** behind the recognition of deferred tax liabilities on taxable temporary differences.

- (a) When an **asset is recognised**, it is expected that its carrying amount will be recovered in the form of economic benefits that flow to the entity in future periods.
- (b) If the carrying amount of the asset is **greater than** its tax base, then taxable economic benefits will also be greater than the amount that will be allowed as a deduction for tax purposes.
- (c) The difference is therefore a **taxable temporary difference** and the obligation to pay the resulting income taxes in future periods is a **deferred tax liability**.
- (d) As the entity recovers the carrying amount of the asset, the taxable temporary difference will **reverse** and the entity will have taxable profit.
- (e) It is then probable that economic benefits will flow from the entity in the form of **tax payments**, and so the recognition of all deferred tax liabilities (except those excluded above) is required by IAS 12.

#### 3.3.1 Example: Taxable temporary differences

A company purchased an asset costing \$1,500. At the end of 20X8 the carrying amount is \$1,000. The cumulative depreciation for tax purposes is \$900 and the current tax rate is 25%.

*Required*

Calculate the deferred tax liability for the asset.

#### Solution

First, what is the tax base of the asset? It is  $\$1,500 - \$900 = \$600$ .

In order to recover the carrying value of \$1,000, the entity must earn taxable income of \$1,000, but it will only be able to deduct \$600 as a taxable expense. The entity must therefore pay income tax of  $\$400 \times 25\% = \$100$  when the carrying value of the asset is recovered.

The entity must therefore recognise a deferred tax liability of  $\$400 \times 25\% = \$100$ , recognising the difference between the carrying amount of \$1,000 and the tax base of \$600 as a taxable temporary difference.

### 3.4 Revalued assets

Under IAS 16 assets may be revalued. If this affects the taxable profit for the current period, the tax base of the asset changes and **no temporary difference** arises.

If, however (as in some countries), the revaluation does *not* affect current taxable profits, the tax base of the asset is not adjusted. Consequently, the taxable flow of economic benefits to the entity as the carrying

value of the asset is recovered will differ from the amount that will be deductible for tax purposes. The difference between the carrying amount of a revalued asset and its tax base is a temporary difference and gives rise to a **deferred tax liability or asset**.

### 3.5 Initial recognition of an asset or liability

A temporary difference can arise on initial recognition of an asset or liability, eg if part or all of the cost of an asset will not be deductible for tax purposes. The **nature of the transaction** which led to the initial recognition of the asset is important in determining the method of accounting for such temporary differences.

If the transaction affects *either* accounting profit or taxable profit, an entity will **recognise any deferred tax liability or asset**. The resulting deferred tax expense or income will be recognised in profit or loss.

Where a transaction affects **neither accounting profit nor taxable profit** it would be normal for an entity to recognise a deferred tax liability or asset and adjust the carrying amount of the asset or liability by the same amount (unless exempted by IAS 12 as under Paragraph 3.3 above). However, IAS 12 does *not* permit this recognition of a deferred tax asset or liability as it would make the financial statements less transparent. This will be the case both on initial recognition and subsequently, nor should any subsequent changes in the unrecognised deferred tax liability or asset as the asset is depreciated be made.

### 3.6 Example: Initial recognition

As an example of the last paragraph, suppose Petros Co intends to use an asset which cost \$10,000 in 20X7 through its useful life of five years. Its residual value will then be nil. The tax rate is 40%. Any capital gain on disposal would not be taxable (and any capital loss not deductible). Depreciation of the asset is not deductible for tax purposes.

*Required*

State the deferred tax consequences in each of years 20X7 and 20X8.

#### Solution

As at 20X7, as it recovers the carrying amount of the asset, Petros Co will earn taxable income of \$10,000 and pay tax of \$4,000. The resulting deferred tax liability of \$4,000 would not be recognised because it results from the initial recognition of the asset.

As at 20X8, the carrying value of the asset is now \$8,000. In earning taxable income of \$8,000, the entity will pay tax of \$3,200. Again, the resulting deferred tax liability of \$3,200 is not recognised, because it results from the initial recognition of the asset.

The following question on accelerated depreciation should clarify some of the issues and introduce you to the calculations which may be necessary in the exam.



#### Question

#### Deferred tax

Jonquil Co buys equipment for \$50,000 and depreciates it on a straight line basis over its expected useful life of five years. For tax purposes, the equipment is depreciated at 25% per annum on a straight line basis. Tax losses may be carried back against taxable profit of the previous five years. In year 20X0, the entity's taxable profit was \$25,000. The tax rate is 40%.

*Required*

Assuming nil profits/losses after depreciation in years 20X1 to 20X5 show the current and deferred tax impact in years 20X1 to 20X5 of the acquisition of the equipment.

Jonquil Co will recover the carrying amount of the equipment by using it to manufacture goods for resale. Therefore, the entity's current tax computation is as follows.

|                                     | Year    |         |         |         |        |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
|                                     | 20X1    | 20X2    | 20X3    | 20X4    | 20X5   |
|                                     | \$      | \$      | \$      | \$      | \$     |
| Taxable income*                     | 10,000  | 10,000  | 10,000  | 10,000  | 10,000 |
| Depreciation for tax purposes       | 12,500  | 12,500  | 12,500  | 12,500  | 0      |
| Taxable profit (tax loss)           | (2,500) | (2,500) | (2,500) | (2,500) | 10,000 |
| Current tax expense (income) at 40% | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | 4,000  |

\* ie nil profit plus (\$50,000 ÷ 5) depreciation add-back.

The entity recognises a current tax asset at the end of years 20X1 to 20X4 because it recovers the benefit of the tax loss against the taxable profit of year 20X0.

The temporary differences associated with the equipment and the resulting deferred tax asset and liability and deferred tax expense and income are as follows.

|  | Year   |        |        |        |         |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
|  | 20X1   | 20X2   | 20X3   | 20X4   | 20X5    |
|  | \$     | \$     | \$     | \$     | \$      |
| Carrying amount                        | 40,000 | 30,000 | 20,000 | 10,000 | 0       |
| Tax base                               | 37,500 | 25,000 | 12,500 | 0      | 0       |
| Taxable temporary difference           | 2,500  | 5,000  | 7,500  | 10,000 | 0       |
| Opening deferred tax liability         | 0      | 1,000  | 2,000  | 3,000  | 4,000   |
| Deferred tax expense (income): bal fig | 1,000  | 1,000  | 1,000  | 1,000  | (4,000) |
| Closing deferred tax liability @ 40%   | 1,000  | 2,000  | 3,000  | 4,000  | 0       |

The entity recognises the deferred tax liability in years 20X1 to 20X4 because the reversal of the taxable temporary difference will create taxable income in subsequent years. The entity's statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income is as follows.

|                               | Year    |         |         |         |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                               | 20X1    | 20X2    | 20X3    | 20X4    | 20X5    |
|                               | \$      | \$      | \$      | \$      | \$      |
| Income                        | 10,000  | 10,000  | 10,000  | 10,000  | 10,000  |
| Depreciation                  | 10,000  | 10,000  | 10,000  | 10,000  | 10,000  |
| Profit before tax             | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |
| Current tax expense (income)  | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | 4,000   |
| Deferred tax expense (income) | 1,000   | 1,000   | 1,000   | 1,000   | (4,000) |
| Total tax expense (income)    | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |
| Net profit for the year       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |

## 4 Deductible temporary differences

Refer again to the definition given in Section 2 above.

### Exam focus point

The rule to remember here is that:

'All deductible temporary differences give rise to a deferred tax asset.'

There is a proviso, however. The deferred tax asset must also satisfy the **recognition criteria** given in IAS 12. This is that a deferred tax asset should be recognised for all deductible temporary differences to the extent that it is **probable that taxable profit will be available** against which it can be utilised. This is an application of prudence. Before we look at this issue in more detail, let us consider the examples of deductible temporary differences given in the standard.

## 4.1 Transactions that affect the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

- **Retirement benefit costs** (pension costs) are deducted from accounting profit as service is provided by the employee. They are not deducted in determining taxable profit until the entity pays either retirement benefits or contributions to a fund. (This may also apply to similar expenses.)
- **Accumulated depreciation** of an asset in the financial statements is greater than the accumulated depreciation allowed for tax purposes up to the year end.
- The **cost of inventories** sold before the year end is deducted from accounting profit when goods/services are delivered, but is deducted from taxable profit when the cash is received. (*Note.* There is also a taxable temporary difference associated with the related trade receivable, as noted in Section 3 above.)
- The **NRV** of inventory, or the **recoverable amount** of an item of property, plant and equipment falls and the carrying value is therefore **reduced**, but that reduction is ignored for tax purposes until the asset is sold.
- **Research costs** (or organisation/other start-up costs) are recognised as an expense for accounting purposes but are not deductible against taxable profits until a later period.
- Income is **deferred** in the statement of financial position, but has already been included in taxable profit in current/prior periods.
- A **government grant** is included in the statement of financial position as deferred income, but it will not be taxable in future periods. (*Note.* A deferred tax asset may *not* be recognised here according to the standard.)

## 4.2 Fair value adjustments and revaluations

**Current investments** or **financial instruments** may be carried at fair value which is less than cost, but no equivalent adjustment is made for tax purposes.

Other situations discussed by the standard relate to **business combinations** and consolidation (see Section 6).

## 4.3 Recognition of deductible temporary differences

We looked earlier at the important recognition criteria above. As with temporary taxable differences, there are also circumstances where the overall rule for recognition of deferred tax asset is *not* allowed. This applies where the deferred tax asset arises from **initial recognition** of an asset or liability in a transaction which is not a business combination, *and* at the time of the transaction, affects neither accounting nor taxable profit/ tax loss.

Let us lay out the reasoning behind the recognition of deferred tax assets arising from deductible temporary differences.

- (a) When a **liability is recognised**, it is assumed that its carrying amount will be settled in the form of outflows of economic benefits from the entity in future periods.
- (b) When these resources flow from the entity, part or all may be deductible in determining taxable profits of a **period later** than that in which the liability is recognised.
- (c) A **temporary tax difference** then exists between the carrying amount of the liability and its tax base.
- (d) A **deferred tax asset** therefore arises, representing the income taxes that will be recoverable in future periods when that part of the liability is allowed as a deduction from taxable profit.
- (e) Similarly, when the carrying amount of an asset is **less than its tax base**, the difference gives rise to a deferred tax asset in respect of the income taxes that will be recoverable in future periods.

### 4.3.1 Example: Deductible temporary differences

Pargatha Co recognises a liability of \$10,000 for accrued product warranty costs on 31 December 20X7. These product warranty costs will not be deductible for tax purposes until the entity pays claims. The tax rate is 25%.

#### *Required*

State the deferred tax implications of this situation.

#### **Solution**

What is the tax base of the liability? It is nil (carrying amount of \$10,000 less the amount that will be deductible for tax purposes in respect of the liability in future periods).

When the liability is settled for its carrying amount, the entity's future taxable profit will be reduced by \$10,000 and so its future tax payments by  $\$10,000 \times 25\% = \$2,500$ .

The difference of \$10,000 between the carrying amount (\$10,000) and the tax base (nil) is a deductible temporary difference. The entity should therefore recognise a deferred tax asset of  $\$10,000 \times 25\% = \$2,500$  **provided that** it is probable that the entity will earn sufficient taxable profits in future periods to benefit from a reduction in tax payments.

## 4.4 Taxable profits in future periods

When can we be sure that sufficient taxable profit will be available against which a deductible temporary difference can be utilised? IAS 12 states that this will be assumed when sufficient **taxable temporary differences** exist which relate to the same taxation authority and the same taxable entity. These should be expected to reverse as follows.

- (a) In the same period as the expected reversal of the deductible temporary difference.
- (b) In periods into which a tax loss arising from the deferred tax asset can be carried back or forward.

Only in these circumstances is the deferred tax asset **recognised**, in the period in which the deductible temporary differences arise.

What happens when there are **insufficient taxable temporary differences** (relating to the same taxation authority and the same taxable entity)? It may still be possible to recognise the deferred tax asset, but only to the following extent.

- (a) **Taxable profits** are sufficient in the same period as the reversal of the deductible temporary difference (or in the periods into which a tax loss arising from the deferred tax asset can be carried forward or backward), ignoring taxable amounts arising from deductible temporary differences arising in future periods.
- (b) **Tax planning opportunities** exist that will allow the entity to create taxable profit in the appropriate periods.

With reference to (b), **tax planning opportunities** are actions that an entity would take in order to create or increase taxable income in a particular period before the expiry of a tax loss or tax credit carryforward. For example, in some countries it may be possible to increase or create taxable profit by electing to have interest income taxed on either a received or receivable basis, or deferring the claim for certain deductions from taxable profit.

In any case, where tax planning opportunities **advance taxable profit** from a later period to an earlier period, the utilisation of a tax loss or a tax credit carryforward will still depend on the existence of future taxable profit from sources other than future originating temporary differences.

If an entity has a **history of recent losses**, then this is evidence that future taxable profit may not be available (see below).



## 4.5 Initial recognition of an asset or liability

Consider Paragraph 3.5 on **initial recognition of an asset or liability**. The example given by the standard is of a non-taxable government grant related to an asset, deducted in arriving at the carrying amount of the asset. For tax purposes, however, it is *not* deducted from the asset's depreciable amount (ie its tax base). The carrying amount of the asset is less than its tax base and this gives rise to a deductible temporary difference. Paragraph 3.5 applies to this type of transaction.

## 4.6 Unused tax losses and unused tax credits

An entity may have unused tax losses or credits (ie which it can offset against taxable profits) at the end of a period. Should a deferred tax asset be recognised in relation to such amounts? IAS 12 states that a deferred tax asset may be recognised in such circumstances **to the extent that it is probable future taxable profit will be available against which the unused tax losses/credits can be utilised**.

The **criteria for recognition** of deferred tax assets here is the same as for recognising deferred tax assets arising from deductible differences. The existence of **unused tax losses** is strong evidence, however, that future taxable profit may not be available. So where an entity has a history of recent tax losses, a deferred tax asset arising from unused tax losses or credits should be recognised only to the extent that the entity has sufficient taxable temporary differences or there is other convincing evidence that sufficient taxable profit will be available against which the unused losses/credits can be utilised by the entity.

In these circumstances, the following criteria should be considered when assessing the probability that taxable profit will be available against which unused tax losses/credits can be utilised.

- Existence of **sufficient taxable temporary differences** (same tax authority/taxable entity) against which unused tax losses/credits can be utilised before they expire
- Probability that the entity will have **taxable profits** before the unused tax losses/credits expire
- Whether the unused tax losses result from **identifiable causes**, unlikely to recur
- Availability of **tax planning opportunities** (see above)

To the extent that it is **not probable** that taxable profit will be available, the deferred tax asset is *not* recognised.

## 4.7 Reassessment of unrecognised deferred tax assets

For *all* unrecognised deferred tax assets, at each year end an entity should **reassess the availability of future taxable profits** and whether part or all of any unrecognised deferred tax assets should now be recognised. This may be due to an improvement in trading conditions which is expected to continue.

## 4.8 Section summary

- Deductible temporary differences give rise to a **deferred tax asset**.
- **Prudence** dictates that deferred tax assets can only be recognised when **sufficient future taxable profits** exist against which they can be utilised.

# 5 Measurement and recognition of deferred tax

### FAST FORWARD

IAS 12 *Income taxes* covers both current and deferred tax. It has substantial presentation and disclosure requirements.

## 5.1 Basis of provision of deferred tax

IAS 12 adopts the full provision method of providing for deferred tax.

The **full provision method** has the **advantage** that it recognises that each timing difference at the year end has an effect on future tax payments. If a company claims an accelerated tax allowance on an item of plant, future tax assessments will be bigger than they would have been otherwise. Future transactions may well affect those assessments still further, but that is not relevant in assessing the position at the year end. The **disadvantage** of full provision is that, under certain types of tax system, it gives rise to large liabilities that may fall due only far in the future.

## 5.2 Example: Full provision

Suppose that Girdo Co begins trading on 1 January 20X7. In its first year it makes profits of \$5m, the depreciation charge is \$1m and the tax allowances on those assets is \$1.5m. The rate of corporation tax is 30%.

### Solution: Full provision

The tax liability is \$1.35m, but the debit to profit or loss is increased by the deferred tax liability of  $30\% \times \$0.5m = \$150,000$ . The total charge to profit or loss is therefore \$1.5m which is an effective tax rate of 30% on accounting profits (ie  $30\% \times \$5.0m$ ). No judgement is involved in using this method.

## 5.3 Deferral/liability methods: changes in tax rates

Where the corporate rate of income tax **fluctuates from one year to another**, a problem arises in respect of the amount of deferred tax to be credited (debited) to profit or loss in later years. The amount could be calculated using either of two methods.

- (a) The **deferral method** assumes that the deferred tax account is an item of 'deferred tax relief' which is credited to profits in the years in which the timing differences are reversed. Therefore the tax effects of timing differences are calculated using tax rates current when the differences **arise**.
- (b) The **liability method** assumes that the tax effects of timing differences should be regarded as amounts of tax ultimately due by or to the company. Therefore deferred tax provisions are calculated at the rate at which it is estimated that tax will be paid (or recovered) when the timing differences **reverse**.

The deferral method involves **extensive record keeping** because the timing differences on each individual capital asset must be held. In contrast, under the liability method, the total originating or reversing timing difference for the year is converted into a deferred tax amount at the current rate of tax (and if any change in the rate of tax has occurred in the year, only a single adjustment to the opening balance on the deferred tax account is required).

IAS 12 requires deferred tax assets and liabilities to be measured at the tax rates expected to apply in the period **when the asset is realised or liability settled**, based on tax rates and laws enacted (or substantively enacted) at the year end. In other words, IAS 12 requires the **liability method** to be used.

## 5.4 Different rates of tax

In addition, in some countries different tax rates apply to different levels of taxable income. In such cases, deferred tax assets and liabilities should be measured using the **average rates** that are expected to apply to the taxable profit (loss) of the periods in which the temporary differences are expected to reverse.

## 5.5 Manner of recovery or settlement

In some countries, the way in which an entity **recovers or settles** the carrying amount of an asset or liability may affect the following.

- (a) The tax rate applying when the entity recovers/settles the carrying amount of the asset/liability
- (b) The tax base of the asset/liability

In such cases, the entity must consider the expected manner of recovery or settlement. Deferred tax liabilities and assets must be measured accordingly, using an **appropriate tax rate and tax base**.

## 5.6 Example: Manner of recovery/settlement

Richcard Co has an asset with a carrying amount of \$10,000 and a tax base of \$6,000. If the asset were sold, a tax rate of 20% would apply. A tax rate of 30% would apply to other income.

*Required*

State the deferred tax consequences if the entity:

- (a) sells the asset without further use.
- (b) expects to return the asset and recover its carrying amount through use.

### Solution

- (a) A deferred tax liability is recognised of  $\$(10,000 - 6,000) \times 20\% = \$800$ .
- (b) A deferred tax liability is recognised of  $\$(10,000 - 6,000) \times 30\% = \$1,200$ .



### Question

### Recovery 1

Emida Co has an asset which cost \$100,000. In 20X9 the carrying value was \$80,000 and the asset was revalued to \$150,000. No equivalent adjustment was made for tax purposes. Cumulative depreciation for tax purposes is \$30,000 and the tax rate is 30%. If the asset is sold for more than cost, the cumulative tax depreciation of \$30,000 will be included in taxable income but sale proceeds in excess of cost will not be taxable.

*Required*

State the deferred tax consequences of the above. (*Hint.* Assume first that the entity expects to recover the carrying value through use, and secondly that it will not and therefore will sell the asset instead.)

### Answer

The tax base of the asset is \$70,000 ( $\$100,000 - \$30,000$ ).

If the entity expects to recover the carrying amount by using the asset it must generate taxable income of \$150,000, but will only be able to deduct depreciation of \$70,000. On this basis there is a deferred tax liability of \$24,000 ( $\$80,000 \times 30\%$ ).

If the entity expects to recover the carrying amount by selling the asset immediately for proceeds of \$150,000, the deferred tax liability will be computed as follows.

|                             | Taxable temporary<br>difference | Tax rate | Deferred<br>tax liability |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
|                             | \$                              |          | \$                        |
| Cumulative tax depreciation | 30,000                          | 30%      | 9,000                     |
| Proceeds in excess of cost  | 50,000                          | Nil      | —                         |
| Total                       | <u>80,000</u>                   |          | <u>9,000</u>              |

*Note.* The additional deferred tax that arises on the revaluation is charged directly to equity: see below.



### Question

### Recovery 2

The facts are as in Recovery 1 above, except that if the asset is sold for more than cost, the cumulative tax depreciation will be included in taxable income (taxed at 30%) and the sale proceeds will be taxed at 40% after deducting an inflation-adjusted cost of \$110,000.

*Required*

State the deferred tax consequences of the above (use the same hint as in Recovery 1).

If the entity expects to recover the carrying amount by using the asset, the situation is as in Recovery 1 above in the same circumstances.

If the entity expects to recover the carrying amount by selling the asset immediately for proceeds of \$150,000, the entity will be able to deduct the indexed costs of \$110,000. The net profit of \$40,000 will be taxed at 40%. In addition, the cumulative tax depreciation of \$30,000 will be included in taxable income and taxed at 30%. On this basis, the tax base is \$80,000 (\$110,000 – \$30,000), there is a taxable temporary difference of \$70,000 and there is a deferred tax liability of \$25,000 (\$40,000 × 40% plus \$30,000 × 30%).

### Exam focus point

If the tax base is not immediately apparent in Recovery 2 above, it may be helpful to consider the fundamental principle of IAS 12: that an entity should recognise a deferred tax liability (asset) whenever recovery or settlement of the carrying amount of an asset or liability would make future tax payments larger (smaller) than they would be if such recovery or settlement would have no consequences.

## 5.7 Discounting

IAS 12 states that deferred tax assets and liabilities **should not be discounted** because the complexities and difficulties involved will affect reliability. Discounting would require detailed scheduling of the timing of the reversal of each temporary difference, but this is often impracticable. If discounting were permitted, this would affect comparability, so it is barred completely. However, carrying amounts determine temporary differences even when such carrying amounts are discounted (eg retirement benefit obligations: see [Chapter 5](#)).

## 5.8 Carrying amount of deferred tax assets

The carrying amount of deferred tax assets should be **reviewed at each year end** and reduced where appropriate (insufficient future taxable profits). Such a reduction may be reversed in future years.

## 5.9 Recognition

As with current tax, deferred tax should normally be recognised as income or an expense and included in the net profit or loss for the period. The exceptions are where the tax arises from the events below.

- (a) A transaction or event which is recognised (in the same or a different period) **directly in equity**
- (b) A business combination that is an **acquisition** (see Part C)

The figures shown for deferred tax in profit or loss will consist of **two components**.

- (a) Deferred tax relating to **timing differences**.
- (b) Adjustments relating to **changes in the carrying amount of deferred tax assets/ liabilities** (where there is no change in timing differences), eg changes in tax rates/ laws, reassessment of the recoverability of deferred tax assets, or a change in the expected recovery of an asset.

Items in (b) will be recognised in the profit or loss, *unless* they relate to items previously charged/credited to equity.

Deferred tax (and current tax) should be **charged/credited directly to equity** if the tax relates to items also charged/credited directly to equity (in the same or a different period).

The following show examples of IFRSs which allow certain items to be credited/charged directly to equity.

- (a) **Revaluations** of property, plant and equipment (IAS 16)
- (b) The effect of a **change in accounting policy** (applied retrospectively) or correction of an **error** (IAS 8)

Where it is not possible to determine the amount of current/deferred tax that relates to items credited/charged to equity, such tax amounts should be based on a reasonable **prorata allocation** of the entity's current/deferred tax.

## 5.10 Section summary

- You should understand and be able to explain the different **bases for provision** of deferred tax.
  - **Flow-through method** (no tax provided)
  - **Full provision method** (tax provided in full, as per IAS 12)
  - **Partial provision method** (tax provided to the extent it is expected to be paid)
- There are two methods of calculating deferred tax when **tax rates change**.
  - **Deferral method** (use tax rates current when differences **arise**)
  - **Liability method** (use tax rate expected when differences **reverse**: per IAS 12)
- Where different rates of tax apply to different rates of income, the **manner of recovery/settlement** of assets/liabilities is important.

## 6 Deferred taxation and business combinations

### FAST FORWARD

You must appreciate the deferred tax aspects of **business combinations**: this is the aspect of deferred tax most likely to appear in the Paper P2 exam.

Much of the above will be familiar to you from your earlier studies. In Paper P2 you are likely to be asked about the **group aspects of deferred taxation**. Everything that IAS 12 states in relation to deferred tax and business combinations is brought together in this section.

### 6.1 Tax bases

Remember the definition of the tax base of an asset or liability given in Section 2 above? In relation to business combinations and consolidations, IAS 12 gives (in an appendix) examples of circumstances that give rise to taxable temporary differences and to deductible temporary differences.

#### 6.1.1 Circumstances that give rise to taxable temporary differences

- The carrying amount of an asset is increased to **fair value** in a business combination that is an acquisition and no equivalent adjustment is made for tax purposes
- **Unrealised losses resulting from intragroup transactions** are eliminated by inclusion in the carrying amount of inventory or property, plant and equipment
- **Retained earnings** of subsidiaries, branches, associates and joint ventures are included in consolidated retained earnings, but income taxes will be payable if the profits are distributed to the reporting parent
- Investments in foreign subsidiaries, branches or associates or interests in foreign joint ventures are affected by **changes in foreign exchange rates**
- An entity accounts in its own currency for the cost of the non-monetary assets of a foreign operation that is **integral to the reporting entity's operations** but the taxable profit or tax loss of the foreign operation is determined in the foreign currency



### Question

#### Deferred tax and business combinations 1

What are the consequences of the above situations?

*Note.* You may want to read through to the end of this section before you attempt this question.

## Answer

- (a) *Fair value adjustment*  
On initial recognition, the resulting deferred tax liability increases goodwill or decreases negative goodwill.
- (b) *Unrealised losses*  
The tax bases of the assets are unaltered.
- (c) *Consolidated earnings*  
IAS 12 does not allow recognition of the resulting deferred tax liability if the parent, investor or venturer is able to control the timing of the reversal of the temporary difference and it is probable that the temporary difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future.
- (d) *Changes in exchange rates: investments*  
There may be either a taxable temporary difference or a deductible temporary difference in this situation. IAS 12 does not allow recognition of the resulting deferred tax liability if the parent, investor or venturer is able to control the timing of the reversal of the temporary difference and it is probable that the temporary difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future.
- (e) *Changes in exchange rates: use of own currency*  
Again, there may be either a taxable temporary difference or a deductible temporary difference. Where there is a taxable temporary difference, the resulting deferred tax liability is recognised, because it relates to the foreign operation's own assets and liabilities, rather than to the reporting entity's investment in that foreign operation. The deferred tax is charged to profit or loss.

### 6.1.2 Circumstances that give rise to deductible temporary differences

- A **liability is recognised at its fair value** in a business combination that is an acquisition, but none of the related expense is deducted in determining taxable profit until a later period
- **Unrealised profits resulting from intragroup transactions** are eliminated from the carrying amount of assets, such as inventory or property, plant or equipment, but no equivalent adjustment is made for tax purposes
- Investments in foreign subsidiaries, branches or associates or interests in foreign joint ventures are affected by **changes in foreign exchange rates**
- A foreign operation accounts for its non-monetary assets in its own (functional) currency. If its taxable profit or loss is determined in a different currency (under the presentation currency method) changes in the exchange rate result in temporary differences. The resulting deferred tax is charged or credited to profit or loss.



## Question

### Deferred tax and business combinations 2

What are the consequences of the above situations?

*Note.* Again, you should read to the end of this section before you answer this question.

## Answer

- (a) *Fair value of liabilities*  
The resulting deferred tax asset decreases goodwill or increases negative goodwill.
- (b) *Unrealised profits*  
As in above.
- (c) *Changes in exchange rates: investments*  
As noted in the question before this, there may be a taxable temporary difference or a deductible temporary difference. IAS 12 requires recognition of the resulting deferred tax asset to the extent, and only to the extent, that it is probable that:

- (i) The temporary difference will reverse in the foreseeable future; and
  - (ii) Taxable profit will be available against which the temporary difference can be utilised.
- (d) *Changes in exchange rates: use of own currency*  
 As noted in the question before this, there may be either a taxable temporary difference or a deductible temporary difference. Where there is a deductible temporary difference, the resulting deferred tax asset is recognised to the extent that it is probable that sufficient taxable profit will be available, because the deferred tax asset relates to the foreign operation's own assets and liabilities, rather than to the reporting **entity's** investment in that foreign operation. The deferred tax is charged to profit or loss.

## 6.2 Taxable temporary differences

In a business combination, the cost of the acquisition must be allocated to the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities acquired as at the date of the transaction. Temporary differences will arise when the tax bases of the identifiable assets and liabilities acquired are not affected by the business combination or are affected differently. For example, the carrying amount of an asset is increased to fair value but the tax base of the asset remains at cost to the previous owner; a taxable temporary difference arises which results in a deferred tax liability and this will also affect goodwill.

## 6.3 Deductible temporary differences

In a business combination that is an acquisition, as in Paragraph 6.2 above, when a **liability** is recognised on acquisition but the related costs are not deducted in determining taxable profits until a later period, a deductible temporary difference arises resulting in a deferred tax asset. A deferred tax asset will also arise when the fair value of an identifiable asset acquired is less than its tax base. In both these cases goodwill is affected (see below).

## 6.4 Investments in subsidiaries, branches and associates and interests in joint arrangements

When such investments are held, **temporary differences** arise because the carrying amount of the investment (ie the parent's share of the net assets including goodwill) becomes different from the tax base (often the cost) of the investment. Why do these differences arise? These are some examples.

- There are **undistributable profits** held by subsidiaries, branches, associates and joint ventures
- There are **changes in foreign exchange rates** when a parent and its subsidiary are based in different countries
- There is a **reduction in the carrying amount** of an investment in an associate to its recoverable amount

The **temporary difference in the consolidated financial statements** may be different from the temporary difference associated with that investment in the parent's separate financial statements when the parent carries the investment in its separate financial statements at cost or revalued amount.

IAS 12 requires entities to **recognise a deferred tax liability** for all taxable temporary differences associated with investments in subsidiaries, branches and associates, and interests in joint ventures, *except* to the extent that both of these conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The parent/investor/venturer is able to **control the timing of the reversal** of the temporary difference
- (b) It is probable that the temporary difference **will not reverse** in the foreseeable future.

As well as the fact of parent control over reversal of temporary differences, it would often be **impracticable** to determine the amount of income taxes payable when the temporary differences reverses. So when the parent has determined that those profits will not be distributed in the foreseeable future, the parent does not recognise a deferred tax liability. The same applies to investments in branches.

Where a foreign operation's taxable profit or tax loss (and therefore the tax base of its non-monetary assets and liabilities) is determined in a **foreign currency**, changes in the exchange rate give rise to temporary differences. These relate to the foreign entity's own assets and liabilities, rather than to the reporting entity's investment in that foreign operation, and so the reporting entity should recognise the resulting deferred tax liability or asset. The resulting deferred tax is charged or credited to profit or loss.

An investor in an **associate** does not control that entity and so cannot determine its dividend policy. Without an agreement requiring that the profits of the associate should not be distributed in the foreseeable future, therefore, an investor should recognise a deferred tax liability arising from taxable temporary differences associated with its investment in the associate. Where an investor cannot determine the exact amount of tax, but only a minimum amount, then the deferred tax liability should be that amount.

In a **joint venture**, the agreement between the parties usually deals with profit sharing. When a venturer can control the sharing of profits and it is probable that the profits will not be distributed in the foreseeable future, a deferred liability is not recognised.

IAS 12 then states that a **deferred tax asset** should be recognised for all deductible temporary differences arising from investments in subsidiaries, branches and associates, and interests in joint ventures, to the extent that (and *only* to the extent that) both these are probable:

- (a) That the temporary difference will **reverse** in the foreseeable future, **and**
- (b) That **taxable profit** will be available against which the temporary difference can be utilised.

The **prudence principle** discussed above for the recognition of deferred tax assets should be considered.

## 6.5 Deferred tax assets of an acquired subsidiary

Deferred tax assets of a subsidiary may not satisfy the criteria for recognition when a business combination is initially accounted for but may be realised subsequently.

These should be recognised as follows:

- If recognised within 12 months of the acquisition date and resulting from new information about circumstances existing at the acquisition date, the credit entry should be made to goodwill. If the carrying amount of goodwill is reduced to zero, any further amounts should be recognised in profit or loss.
- If recognised outside the 12 months 'measurement period' or not resulting from new information about circumstances existing at the acquisition date, the credit entry should be made to profit or loss.



### Question

### Recognition

In 20X2 Jacko Co acquired a subsidiary, Jilly Co, which had deductible temporary differences of \$3m. The tax rate at the date of acquisition was 30%. The resulting deferred tax asset of \$0.9m was not recognised as an identifiable asset in determining the goodwill of \$5m resulting from the business combination. Two years after the acquisition, Jacko Co decided that future taxable profit would probably be sufficient for the entity to recover the benefit of all the deductible temporary differences.

*Required*

- (a) Consider the accounting treatment of the subsequent recognition of the deferred tax asset in 20X4.
- (b) What would happen if the tax rate had risen to 40% by 20X4 or decreased to 20%?

### Answer

- (a) The entity recognises a deferred tax asset of \$0.9m ( $\$3\text{m} \times 30\%$ ) and, in profit or loss statement, deferred tax income of \$0.9m. It also reduces the cost of the goodwill by \$0.9m and recognises an expense of \$0.9m in profit or loss. The cost of goodwill is reduced to \$4.1m, ie the amount that would have been recorded if a deferred tax asset of \$0.9m had been recognised as an identifiable asset at the date of the business combination.



- (b) If the tax rate rises to 40%, the entity should recognise a deferred tax asset of \$1.2m ( $\$3\text{m} \times 40\%$ ) and, in profit or loss, deferred tax income of \$1.2m.
- If the tax rate falls to 20%, the entity should recognise a deferred tax asset of \$0.6m ( $\$3\text{m} \times 20\%$ ) and deferred tax income of \$0.6m.
- In both cases, the entity will also reduce the cost of goodwill by \$0.9m and recognise an expense for that amount in profit or loss.

## 6.6 Example: Deferred tax adjustments (1)

Red is a private limited liability company and has two 100% owned subsidiaries, Blue and Green, both themselves private limited liability companies. Red acquired Green on 1 January 20X2 for \$5 million when the fair value of the net assets was \$4 million, and the tax base of the net assets was \$3.5 million. The acquisition of Green and Blue was part of a business strategy whereby Red would build up the 'value' of the group over a three-year period and then list its existing share capital on the stock exchange.

- (a) The following details relate to the acquisition of Green, which manufactures electronic goods.
- (i) Part of the purchase price has been allocated to intangible assets because it relates to the acquisition of a database of key customers from Green. The recognition and measurement criteria for an intangible asset under IFRS 3 *Business combinations*/IAS 38 *Intangible assets* do not appear to have been met but the directors feel that the intangible asset of \$0.5 million will be allowed for tax purposes and have computed the tax provision accordingly. However, the tax authorities could possibly challenge this opinion.
  - (ii) Green has sold goods worth \$3 million to Red since acquisition and made a profit of \$1 million on the transaction. The inventory of these goods recorded in Red's statement of financial position at the year end of 31 May 20X2 was \$1.8 million.
  - (iii) The balance on the retained earnings of Green at acquisition was \$2 million. The directors of Red have decided that, during the three years to the date that they intend to list the shares of the company, they will realise earnings through future dividend payments from the subsidiary amounting to \$500,000 per year. Tax is payable on any remittance or dividends and no dividends have been declared for the current year.
- (b) Blue was acquired on 1 June 20X1 and is a company which undertakes various projects ranging from debt factoring to investing in property and commodities. The following details relate to Blue for the year ending 31 May 20X2.
- (i) Blue has a portfolio of readily marketable government securities which are held as current assets. These investments are stated at market value in the statement of financial position with any gain or loss taken to profit or loss for the year. These gains and losses are taxed when the investments are sold. Currently the accumulated unrealised gains are \$4 million.
  - (ii) Blue has calculated that it requires a specific allowance of \$2 million against loans in its portfolio. Tax relief is available when the specific loan is written off.
  - (iii) When Red acquired Blue it had unused tax losses brought forward. At 1 June 20X1, it appeared that Blue would have sufficient taxable profit to realise the deferred tax asset created by these losses but subsequent events have proven that the future taxable profit will not be sufficient to realise all of the unused tax loss.

The current tax rate for Red is 30% and for public companies is 35%.

### Required

Write a note suitable for presentation to the partner of an accounting firm setting out the deferred tax implications of the above information for the Red Group of companies.

## Solution: Deferred tax adjustments (1)

### Acquisition of the subsidiaries – general

**Fair value adjustments** have been made for consolidation purposes in both cases and these will **affect the deferred tax charge for the year**. This is because the deferred tax position is viewed **from the perspective of the group as a whole**. For example, it may be possible to recognise deferred tax assets which previously could not be recognised by individual companies, because there are now sufficient tax profits available within the group to utilise unused tax losses. Therefore a **provision** should be made for **temporary differences between fair values of the identifiable net assets acquired and their carrying values** (\$4 million less \$3.5 million in respect of Green). **No provision should be made for the temporary difference** of \$1 million arising on goodwill recognised as a result of the combination with Green.

### Future listing

Red plans to seek a listing in three years' time. Therefore it will become a **public company** and will be subject to a **higher rate of tax**. IAS 12 states that deferred tax should be measured at the **average tax rates expected to apply in the periods in which the timing differences are expected to reverse**, based on current enacted tax rates and laws. This means that Red may be paying tax at the higher rate when some of its timing differences reverse and this should be taken into account in the calculation.

### Acquisition of Green

- (a) The directors have calculated the tax provision on the assumption that the intangible asset of \$0.5 million will be allowed for tax purposes. However, this is not certain and the directors **may eventually have to pay the additional tax**. If the directors cannot be persuaded to adjust their calculations a **liability for the additional tax should be recognised**.
- (b) The intra-group transaction has resulted in an **unrealised profit** of \$0.6 million in the group accounts and this will be **eliminated on consolidation**. The tax charge in the group statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income includes the tax on this profit, for which **the group will not become liable to tax until the following period**. **From the perspective of the group, there is a temporary difference**. Because the temporary difference arises in the financial statements of Red, **deferred tax should be provided** on this difference (an asset) using the rate of tax payable by Red.
- (c) **Deferred tax should be recognised on the unremitted earnings of subsidiaries** unless the parent is able to **control the timing of dividend payments** or it is **unlikely that dividends will be paid for the foreseeable future**. Red controls the dividend policy of Green and this means that there would normally be no need to make a provision in respect of unremitted profits. However, the profits of Green **will be distributed** to Red over the next few years and **tax will be payable** on the dividends received. Therefore a **deferred tax liability should be shown**.

### Acquisition of Blue

- (a) A **temporary difference arises** where non-monetary assets are **revalued upwards** and the **tax treatment of the surplus is different from the accounting treatment**. In this case, the revaluation surplus has been **recognised in profit or loss** for the current period, rather than in equity but no corresponding adjustment has been made to the tax base of the investments because the gains will be taxed in future periods. Therefore the company **should recognise a deferred tax liability on the temporary difference of \$4 million**.
- (b) A temporary difference arises when the provision for the loss on the loan portfolio is first recognised. The general allowance is expected to increase and therefore it is unlikely that the temporary difference will reverse in the near future. However, a **deferred tax liability should still be recognised**. The temporary difference gives rise to a **deferred tax asset**. IAS 12 states that **deferred tax assets should not be recognised unless it is probable that taxable profits will be available** against which the taxable profits can be utilised. **This is affected by the situation in point (c) below**.
- (c) In theory, unused tax losses give rise to a deferred tax asset. However, IAS 12 states that **deferred tax assets should only be recognised to the extent that they are regarded as recoverable**. They

should be regarded as recoverable to the extent that on the basis of all the evidence available it is **probable that there will be suitable taxable profits against which the losses can be recovered**. The future taxable profit of Blue **will not be sufficient to realise all the unused tax loss**. Therefore **the deferred tax asset is reduced to the amount that is expected to be recovered**.

This reduction in the deferred tax asset implies that it was **overstated at 1 June 20X1**, when it was acquired by the group. As these are the first post-acquisition financial statements, **goodwill should also be adjusted**.

## 6.7 Example: Deferred tax adjustments 2

You are the accountant of Payit. Your assistant is preparing the consolidated financial statements of the year ended 31 March 20X2. However, he is unsure how to account for the deferred tax effects of certain transactions as he has not studied IAS 12. These transactions are given below.

### Transaction 1

During the year, Payit sold goods to a subsidiary for \$10 million, making a profit of 20% on selling price. 25% of these goods were still in the inventories of the subsidiary at 31 March 20X2. The subsidiary and Payit are in the same tax jurisdiction and pay tax on profits at 30%.

### Transaction 2

An overseas subsidiary made a loss adjusted for tax purposes of \$8 million (\$ equivalent). The only relief available for this tax loss is to carry it forward for offset against future taxable profits of the overseas subsidiary. Taxable profits of the overseas subsidiary suffer tax at a rate of 25%.

### Required

Compute the effect of both the above transactions on the deferred tax amounts in the consolidated statement of financial position of Payit at 31 March 20X2. You should provide a full explanation for your calculations and indicate any assumptions you make in formulating your answer.

## Solution: Deferred tax adjustments 2

### Transaction 1

This intra-group sale will give rise to a **provision for unrealised profit** on the unsold inventory of  $\$10,000,000 \times 20\% \times 25\% = \$500,000$ . This provision must be made in the consolidated accounts. However, this profit has already been taxed in the financial statements of Payit. In other words there is a **timing difference**. In the following year when the stock is sold outside the group, the provision will be released, but the profit will not be taxed. The timing difference therefore gives rise to a **deferred tax asset**. The asset is  $30\% \times \$500,000 = \$150,000$ .

Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that they are **recoverable**. This will be the case if **it is more likely than not** that **suitable tax profits** will exist from which the reversal of the timing difference giving rise to the asset can be deducted. The asset is carried forward on this assumption.

### Transaction 2

An unrelieved tax loss gives rise to a **timing difference** because the loss is recognised in the financial statements but not yet allowed for tax purposes. When the overseas subsidiary generates sufficient taxable profits, the loss will be offset against these in arriving at taxable profits.

The amount of the deferred tax asset to be carried forward is  $25\% \times \$8\text{m} = \$2\text{m}$ .

As with Transaction 1, deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that they are **recoverable**. This will be the case if **it is more likely than not** that **suitable tax profits** will exist from which the reversal of the timing difference giving rise to the asset can be deducted.

## 6.8 Section summary

In relation to deferred tax and business combinations you should be familiar with:

- Circumstances that give rise to **taxable temporary differences**
- Circumstances that give rise to **deductible temporary differences**
- Their **treatment** once an acquisition takes place
- Reasons **why deferred tax arises** when investments are held
- **Recognition** of deferred tax on business combinations

## Chapter Roundup

- Taxation consists of **two components**.
  - Current tax
  - Deferred tax
- **Current tax** is the amount payable to the tax authorities in relation to the trading activities during the period. It is generally straightforward.
- **Deferred tax** is an accounting measure, used to match the tax effects of transactions with their accounting impact. It is quite complex.
- **Deferred tax assets and liabilities** arise from taxable and deductible temporary differences.
- **IAS 12 Income taxes** covers both current and deferred tax. It has substantial presentation and disclosure requirements.
- You must appreciate the deferred tax aspects of **business combinations**: this is the aspect of deferred tax most likely to appear in the Paper P2 exam.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 What is the difference between 'current tax' and 'deferred tax'?
- 2 How should current tax be measured?
  - A The total liability, including deferred tax
  - B The amount expected to be paid to (or recovered from) the tax authorities
  - C The amount calculated on profit at current tax rates
  - D The amount calculated on profit at future tax rates
- 3 A taxable temporary difference gives rise to a deferred tax liability. *True or false?*
- 4 What is the basis of provision for deferred tax required by IAS 12?
- 5 What two methods can be used for calculating deferred tax when the tax rate changes?
- 6 Current tax assets and liabilities cannot be offset. *True or false?*
- 7 How do temporary differences arise when investments are held in subsidiaries, associates and so on?

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 (a) Current tax is the amount actually payable to the tax authorities.  
(b) Deferred tax is used to match the tax effects of transactions with their accounting impact.
- 2 B The amount expected to be paid to (or recovered from) the tax authorities.
- 3 True.
- 4 Full provision
- 5
  - Deferral method
  - Liability method
- 6 False. They can be offset only if the entity has a legally enforceable right to offset *and* it intends to actually carry out the offset.
- 7 When the carrying amounts of the investment become different to the tax base of the investment.

Now try the question below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level       | Marks | Time    |
|--------|-------------|-------|---------|
| Q8     | Examination | 25    | 45 mins |

# Financial instruments

| Topic list                              | Syllabus reference |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 Financial instruments                 | C3                 |
| 2 Presentation of financial instruments | C3                 |
| 3 Recognition of financial instruments  | C3                 |
| 4 Measurement of financial instruments  | C3                 |
| 5 Embedded derivatives                  | C3                 |
| 6 Hedging                               | C3                 |
| 7 Disclosure of financial instruments   | C3                 |
| 8 Fair value measurement                | F2                 |

## Introduction

**Financial instruments** sounds like a daunting subject, and indeed this is a complex and controversial area. The numbers involved in financial instruments are often huge, but don't let this put you off. In this chapter we aim to simplify the topic as much as possible and to focus on the important issues.

IFRS 9, the most recent standard on financial instruments replaces IAS 39. It is a work in progress, and has not yet been updated for hedging and impairment, which are still at the ED stage.

## Study guide

|           |   | Intellectual level |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| <b>C3</b> | <b>Financial instruments</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Apply and discuss the recognition and de-recognition of a financial asset or financial liability                                | 2                  |
| (b)       | Apply and discuss the classification of a financial asset or financial liability and their measurement                          | 2                  |
| (c)       | Apply and discuss the treatment of gains and losses arising on financial assets or financial liabilities                        | 2                  |
| (d)       | Apply and discuss the treatment of impairment of financial assets   | 2                  |
| (e)       | Account for derivative financial instruments and simple embedded derivatives  | 2                  |
| (f)       | Outline the principle of hedge accounting and account for fair value hedges and cash flow hedges, including hedge effectiveness | 2                  |

## Exam guide

This is a highly controversial topic and therefore, likely to be examined, probably in Section B.

### Exam focus point

Although the very complexity of this topic makes it a highly likely subject for an exam question in Paper P2, there are limits as to how complicated and detailed a question the examiner can set with any realistic expectation of students being able to answer it. You should therefore concentrate on the essential points. To date, financial instruments have mainly been examined within a larger scenario based question. However, in June 2011 a numerical calculation was required for an area covered by the ED on impairment.

## 1 Financial instruments

6/08 – 6/12

### FAST FORWARD

Financial instruments can be very complex, particularly **derivative instruments**, although **primary instruments** are more straightforward.

### 1.1 Background

If you read the financial press you will probably be aware of **rapid international expansion** in the use of financial instruments. These vary from straightforward, traditional instruments, eg bonds, through to various forms of so-called 'derivative instruments'.

We can perhaps summarise the reasons why a project on the accounting for financial instruments was considered necessary as follows.

- (a) The **significant growth of financial instruments** over recent years has outstripped the development of guidance for their accounting.
- (b) The topic is of **international concern**, other national standard-setters are involved as well as the IASB.
- (c) There have been recent **high-profile disasters** involving derivatives (eg Barings) which, while not caused by accounting failures, have raised questions about accounting and disclosure practices.

These are four accounting standards on financial instruments:

- (a) IAS 32 *Financial instruments: Presentation*, which deals with:
  - (i) The classification of financial instruments between liabilities and equity
  - (ii) Presentation of certain compound instruments



- (b) IFRS 7 *Financial instruments: Disclosures*, which revised, simplified and incorporated disclosure requirements previously in IAS 32.
- (c) IAS 39 *Financial instruments: Recognition and measurement*, which dealt with:
  - (i) Recognition and derecognition
  - (ii) The measurement of financial instruments
  - (iii) Hedge accounting
- (d) IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments*, issued in November 2009, replaced parts of IAS 39, with respect to the classification and measurement of financial assets. In 2010, IFRS 9 was updated to include the classification and measurement of financial liabilities and the derecognition of financial assets and liabilities. This standard is a work in progress and in due course will be developed further to fully replace IAS 39. It will come into force for accounting periods ending in 2015. This is Phase 1 of the project to replace IAS 39.
- (e) *Impairment Methodology*. An Exposure Draft *Financial Instruments: Amortised Cost and Impairment* was issued in November 2009 (see Section 4), with a supplement in January 2011. This is Phase 2 of the project to replace IAS 39.
- (f) *Hedge accounting*. This is Phase 3 of the project to replace IAS 39. An exposure draft was issued in December 2010.

## 1.2 Definitions

The most important definitions are common to all four standards.

### FAST FORWARD

The important definitions to learn are:

- **Financial asset**
- **Financial liability**
- **Equity instrument**

### Key terms

**Financial instrument.** Any contract that gives rise to both a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

**Financial asset.** Any asset that is:

- (a) Cash
- (b) An equity instrument of another entity
- (c) A contractual right to receive cash or another financial asset from another entity; or to exchange financial instruments with another entity under conditions that are potentially favourable to the entity, or
- (d) A contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments and is:
  - (i) A non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to receive a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments; or
  - (ii) A derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments.

**Financial liability.** Any liability that is:

- (a) A contractual obligation:
  - (i) To deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity, or
  - (ii) To exchange financial instruments with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavourable; or
- (b) A contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments and is:
  - (i) A non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to deliver a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments; or

## Key terms (cont'd)

- (ii) a derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments.

**Equity instrument.** Any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of an entity after deducting all of its liabilities.

**Fair value** is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

**Derivative.** A financial instrument or other contract with all three of the following characteristics:

- (a) its value changes in response to the change in a specified interest rate, financial instrument price, commodity price, foreign exchange rate, index of prices or rates, credit rating or credit index, or other variable (sometimes called the 'underlying');
- (b) it requires no initial net investment or an initial net investment that is smaller than would be required for other types of contracts that would be expected to have a similar response to changes in market factors; and
- (c) it is settled at a future date.

(IAS 32, IFRS 9 and IFRS 13)

## Exam focus point

These definitions are very important so learn them.

We should clarify some points arising from these definitions. First, one or two terms above should be themselves defined.

- (a) A '**contract**' need not be in writing, but it must comprise an agreement that has 'clear economic consequences' and which the parties to it cannot avoid, usually because the agreement is enforceable in law.
- (b) An '**entity**' here could be an individual, partnership, incorporated body or government agency.

The definitions of **financial assets and financial liabilities** may seem rather circular, referring as they do to the terms financial asset and financial instrument. The point is that there may be a chain of contractual rights and obligations, but it will lead ultimately to the receipt or payment of cash or the acquisition or issue of an equity instrument.

Examples of **financial assets** include:

- (a) Trade receivables
- (b) Options
- (c) Shares (when used as an investment)

Examples of **financial liabilities** include:

- (a) Trade payables
- (b) Debenture loans payable
- (c) Redeemable preference (non-equity) shares
- (d) Forward contracts standing at a loss

As we have already noted, financial instruments include both of the following.

- (a) **Primary instruments:** eg receivables, payables and equity securities
- (b) **Derivative instruments:** eg financial options, futures and forwards, interest rate swaps and currency swaps, **whether recognised or unrecognised**

IAS 32 makes it clear that the following items are *not* financial instruments.

- (a) **Physical assets**, eg inventories, property, plant and equipment, leased assets and intangible assets (patents, trademarks etc)
- (b) **Prepaid expenses**, deferred revenue and most warranty obligations
- (c) Liabilities or assets that are **not contractual** in nature
- (d) Contractual rights/obligations that **do not involve transfer of a financial asset**, eg commodity futures contracts, operating leases



Can you give the reasons why the first two items listed above do not qualify as financial instruments?

## Answer

Refer to the definitions of financial assets and liabilities given above.

- (a) **Physical assets:** control of these creates an opportunity to generate an inflow of cash or other assets, but it does not give rise to a present right to receive cash or other financial assets.
- (b) **Prepaid expenses, etc:** the future economic benefit is the receipt of goods/services rather than the right to receive cash or other financial assets.
- (c) **Deferred revenue, warranty obligations:** the probable outflow of economic benefits is the delivery of goods/services rather than cash or another financial asset.

**Contingent rights and obligations** meet the definition of financial assets and financial liabilities respectively, even though many do not qualify for recognition in financial statements. This is because the contractual rights or obligations exist because of a past transaction or event (eg assumption of a guarantee).

### 1.3 Derivatives

A **derivative** is a financial instrument that **derives** its value from the price or rate of an underlying item. Common **examples** of derivatives include:

- (a) **Forward contracts:** agreements to buy or sell an asset at a fixed price at a fixed future date
- (b) **Futures contracts:** similar to forward contracts except that contracts are standardised and traded on an exchange
- (c) **Options:** rights (but not obligations) for the option holder to exercise at a pre-determined price; the option writer loses out if the option is exercised
- (d) **Swaps:** agreements to swap one set of cash flows for another (normally interest rate or currency swaps).

The nature of derivatives often gives rise to **particular problems**. The **value** of a derivative (and the amount at which it is eventually settled) depends on **movements** in an underlying item (such as an exchange rate). This means that settlement of a derivative can lead to a very different result from the one originally envisaged. A company which has derivatives is exposed to **uncertainty and risk** (potential for gain or loss) and this can have a very material effect on its financial performance, financial position and cash flows.

Yet because a derivative contract normally has **little or no initial cost**, under traditional accounting it **may not be recognised** in the financial statements at all. Alternatively, it may be recognised at an amount which bears no relation to its current value. This is clearly **misleading** and leaves users of the financial statements unaware of the **level of risk** that the company faces. IASs 32 and 39 were developed in order to correct this situation.

### 1.4 Section summary

- Four accounting standards are relevant:
  - **IFRS 9 *Financial instruments*** (a 'work-in-progress', now covering classification, measurement, recognition and derecognition of financial assets and liabilities)
  - **IAS 32: *Financial instruments: Presentation***
  - **IFRS 7: *Financial instruments: Disclosures***

- **IAS 39: Financial instruments: Recognition and measurement** (to be replaced, still applicable to hedging and impairment)
- The definitions of **financial asset**, **financial liability** and **equity instrument** are fundamental to the standards.
- Financial instruments include:
  - **Primary** instruments
  - **Derivative** instruments

## 2 Presentation of financial instruments

### 2.1 Objective

The objective of IAS 32 is:

'to enhance financial statement users' understanding of the significance of on-balance-sheet and off-balance-sheet financial instruments to an entity's financial position, performance and cash flows.'

### 2.2 Scope

IAS 32 should be applied in the presentation of **all types of financial instruments**, whether recognised or unrecognised.

Certain items are **excluded**.

- Interests in subsidiaries (IAS 27: Chapter 12)
- Interests in associates (IAS 28: Chapter 12)
- Interests in joint ventures (IAS 31: Chapter 13)
- Pensions and other post-retirement benefits (IAS 19: Chapter 5)
- Insurance contracts
- Contracts for contingent consideration in a business combination
- Contracts that require a payment based on climatic, geological or other physical variables
- Financial instruments, contracts and obligations under share-based payment transactions (IFRS 2: Chapter 8)

### 2.3 Liabilities and equity

#### FAST FORWARD

Financial instruments must be classified as **liabilities** or **equity** according to their **substance**.

The critical feature of a financial liability is the **contractual obligation to deliver cash** or another financial asset.

The main thrust of IAS 32 here is that financial instruments should be presented according to their **substance, not merely their legal form**. In particular, entities which issue financial instruments should classify them (or their component parts) as **either financial liabilities, or equity**.

The classification of a financial instrument as a liability or as equity depends on the following.

- The substance of the contractual arrangement on initial recognition
- The definitions of a financial liability and an equity instrument

How should a **financial liability be distinguished from an equity instrument**? The critical feature of a **liability** is an **obligation** to transfer economic benefit. Therefore, a financial instrument is a financial liability if there is a **contractual obligation** on the issuer either to deliver cash or another financial asset to the holder or to exchange another financial instrument with the holder under potentially unfavourable conditions to the issuer.

The financial liability exists **regardless of the way in which the contractual obligation will be settled**. The issuer's ability to satisfy an obligation may be restricted, eg by lack of access to foreign currency, but this is irrelevant as it does not remove the issuer's obligation or the holder's right under the instrument.

Where the above critical feature is *not* met, then the financial instrument is an **equity instrument**. IAS 32 explains that although the holder of an equity instrument may be entitled to a *pro rata* share of any distributions out of equity, the issuer does *not* have a contractual obligation to make such a distribution.

Although substance and legal form are often **consistent with each other**, this is not always the case. In particular, a financial instrument may have the legal form of equity, but in substance it is in fact a liability. Other instruments may combine features of both equity instruments and financial liabilities.

For example, many entities issue **preferred shares** which must be **redeemed** by the issuer for a fixed (or determinable) amount at a fixed (or determinable) future date. Alternatively, the holder may have the right to require the issuer to redeem the shares at or after a certain date for a fixed amount. In such cases, the issuer has an **obligation**. Therefore the instrument is a **financial liability** and should be classified as such.

The classification of the financial instrument is made when it is **first recognised** and this classification will continue until the financial instrument is removed from the entity's statement of financial position.

## 2.4 Contingent settlement provisions

An entity may issue a financial instrument where the way in which it is settled depends on:

- (a) The occurrence or non-occurrence of uncertain future events, or
- (b) The outcome of uncertain circumstances,

that are beyond the control of both the holder and the issuer of the instrument. For example, an entity might have to deliver cash instead of issuing equity shares. In this situation it is not immediately clear whether the entity has an equity instrument or a financial liability.

Such financial instruments should be classified as **financial liabilities** unless the possibility of settlement is remote.

## 2.5 Settlement options

When a derivative financial instrument gives one party a **choice** over how it is settled (eg, the issuer can choose whether to settle in cash or by issuing shares) the instrument is a **financial asset** or a **financial liability** unless **all the alternative choices** would result in it being an equity instrument.

## 2.6 Compound financial instruments

### FAST FORWARD

**Compound instruments** are split into **equity** and **liability** components and presented accordingly in the statement of financial position.

Some financial instruments contain both a liability and an equity element. In such cases, IAS 32 requires the component parts of the instrument to be **classified separately**, according to the substance of the contractual arrangement and the definitions of a financial liability and an equity instrument.

One of the most common types of compound instrument is **convertible debt**. This creates a primary financial liability of the issuer and grants an option to the holder of the instrument to convert it into an equity instrument (usually ordinary shares) of the issuer. This is the economic equivalent of the issue of conventional debt plus a warrant to acquire shares in the future.

Although in theory there are several possible ways of calculating the split, the following method is recommended:

- (a) Calculate the value for the liability component.
- (b) Deduct this from the instrument as a whole to leave a residual value for the equity component.

The reasoning behind this approach is that an entity's equity is its residual interest in its assets amount after deducting all its liabilities.

The **sum of the carrying amounts** assigned to liability and equity will always be equal to the carrying amount that would be ascribed to the instrument **as a whole**.

## 2.7 Example: Valuation of compound instruments

Rathbone Co issues 2,000 convertible bonds at the start of 20X2. The bonds have a three-year term, and are issued at par with a face value of \$1,000 per bond, giving total proceeds of \$2,000,000. Interest is payable annually in arrears at a nominal annual interest rate of 6%. Each bond is convertible at any time up to maturity into 250 common shares.

When the bonds are issued, the prevailing market interest rate for similar debt without conversion options is 9%. At the issue date, the market price of one common share is \$3. The dividends expected over the three-year term of the bonds amount to 14c per share at the end of each year. The risk-free annual interest rate for a three-year term is 5%.

### Required

What is the value of the equity component in the bond?

### Solution

The liability component is valued first, and the difference between the proceeds of the bond issue and the fair value of the liability is assigned to the equity component. The present value of the liability component is calculated using a discount rate of 9%, the market interest rate for similar bonds having no conversion rights, as shown.

|  | \$               |
|--|------------------|
| Present value of the principal: \$2,000,000 payable at the end of three years<br>(\$2m × 0.772)*             | 1,544,000        |
| Present value of the interest: \$120,000 payable annually in arrears for three years<br>(\$120,000 × 2.531)* | 303,720          |
| Total liability component  | 1,847,720        |
| Equity component (balancing figure)  | 152,280          |
| Proceeds of the bond issue   | <u>2,000,000</u> |

\* These figures can be obtained from discount and annuity tables.

The split between the liability and equity components remains the same throughout the term of the instrument, even if there are changes in the **likelihood of the option being exercised**. This is because it is not always possible to predict how a holder will behave. The issuer continues to have an obligation to make future payments until conversion, maturity of the instrument or some other relevant transaction takes place.

## 2.8 Treasury shares

If an entity **reacquires its own equity instruments**, those instruments ('treasury shares') shall be **deducted from equity**. No gain or loss shall be recognised in profit or loss on the purchase, sale, issue or cancellation of an entity's own equity instruments. Consideration paid or received shall be recognised directly in equity.

## 2.9 Interest, dividends, losses and gains

As well as looking at statement of financial position presentation, IAS 32 considers how financial instruments affect the profit or loss (and movements in equity). The treatment varies according to whether interest, dividends, losses or gains relate to a financial liability or an equity instrument.

- (a) Interest, dividends, losses and gains relating to a financial instrument (or component part) classified as a **financial liability** should be recognised as **income or expense** in profit or loss.
- (b) Distributions to holders of a financial instrument classified as an **equity instrument** should be **debited directly to equity** by the issuer.

- (c) **Transaction costs** of an equity transaction shall be accounted for as a **deduction from equity** (unless they are directly attributable to the acquisition of a business, in which case they are accounted for under IFRS 3).

You should look at the requirements of IAS 1 *Presentation of financial statements* for further details of disclosure, and IAS 12 *Income taxes* for disclosure of tax effects.

## 2.10 Offsetting a financial asset and a financial liability

A financial asset and financial liability should **only** be **offset**, with the net amount reported in the statement of financial position, when an entity:

- (a) Has a legally enforceable right of set off, *and*
- (b) Intends to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously, ie at the same moment.

This will reflect the expected **future cash flows** of the entity in these specific circumstances. In all other cases, financial assets and financial liabilities are presented separately.

### 2.10.1 Exposure Draft: Offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities

In January 2011, the IASB issued an ED *Offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities*. The proposals are as follows.

- (a) **Offsetting criteria.** An entity would be required to offset a recognised financial asset and a recognised financial liability if, and only if, it has **an enforceable unconditional right of set-off** and intends either to **settle the asset and liability on a net basis** or to **realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously**.
- (b) **Application.** The offsetting criteria in (a) apply whether the right of set-off arises from **a bilateral arrangement or from a multilateral arrangement** (ie between three or more parties).
- (c) **Enforceable in all circumstances.** A right of set-off must be legally enforceable in all circumstances (including default by or bankruptcy of a counterparty) and its exercisability must not be contingent on a future event.
- (d) **Disclosure.** An entity is required to disclose information about offsetting and related arrangements (such as collateral agreements) to enable users of its financial statements to understand the effect of those arrangements on its financial position.

## 2.11 Amendment to IAS 32: Puttable financial instruments and obligations arising on liquidation

This amendment was issued in February 2008. The changes deal with puttable financial instruments and the effect obligations that arise on liquidation have on determining whether an instrument is debt or equity.

IAS 32 requires that if the holder of a financial instrument can require the issuer to redeem it for cash it should be classified as a liability. Some ordinary shares and partnership interests allow the holder to 'put' the instrument (that is to require the issuer to redeem it in cash). Such shares might more usually be considered as equity, but application of IAS 32 results in their being classified as liabilities.

The amendment requires entities to classify such instruments as equity, so long as they meet certain conditions. The amendment further requires that instruments imposing an obligation on an entity to deliver to another party a pro rata share of the net assets only on liquidation should be classified as equity.

## 2.12 Section summary

- Financial instruments issued to raise capital must be classified as **liabilities** or **equity**
- The **substance** of the financial instrument is more important than its **legal form**

- The **critical feature of a financial liability** is the contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial instrument
- **Compound instruments** are split into equity and liability parts and presented accordingly
- **Interest, dividends, losses and gains** are treated according to whether they relate to an equity instrument or a financial liability

## 3 Recognition of financial instruments

### FAST FORWARD

**IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments***, issued in November 2009 and updated in October 2010 **replaced parts of IAS 39, with respect to the recognition, derecognition, classification and measurement of financial assets and liabilities**. In general, the rules were simplified. This standard is a work in progress and will fully replace IAS 39.

Two **Exposure Drafts**, on **amortised cost and impairment**, and on the **hedging**, continue the project.

IFRS 9 *Financial instruments* establishes principles for recognising and measuring financial assets and financial liabilities.

### 3.1 Scope

IFRS 9 applies to **all entities** and to **all types of financial instruments except** those specifically excluded, as listed below.

- Investments in **subsidiaries, associates, and joint ventures** that are accounted for under IFRSs 10, 11 and 12
- Leases** covered in IAS 17
- Employee benefit plans** covered in IAS 19
- Insurance contracts**
- Equity instruments issued by the entity** eg ordinary shares issued, or options and warrants
- Financial guarantee** contracts
- Contracts for contingent consideration** in a business combination, covered in IFRS 3
- Contracts requiring payment based on climatic, geological or other **physical variables**
- Loan commitments** that cannot be settled net in cash or another financial instrument
- Financial instruments, contracts and obligations under **share based payment transactions**, covered in IFRS 2.

### 3.2 Initial recognition

Financial instruments should be recognised in the statement of financial position when the entity becomes a party to the **contractual provisions of the instrument**.

#### Point to note

An important consequence of this is that all derivatives should be in the statement of financial position.

Notice that this is **different** from the recognition criteria in the *Conceptual Framework* and in most other standards. Items are normally recognised when there is a probable inflow or outflow of resources and the item has a cost or value that can be measured reliably.

### 3.3 Example: initial recognition

An entity has entered into two separate contracts.

- A firm commitment (an order) to buy a specific quantity of iron.
- A forward contract to buy a specific quantity of iron at a specified price on a specified date, provided delivery of the iron is not taken.



Contract (a) is a **normal trading contract**. The entity does not recognise a liability for the iron until the goods have actually been delivered. (Note that this contract is not a financial instrument because it involves a physical asset, rather than a financial asset.)

Contract (b) is a **financial instrument**. Under IFRS 9, the entity recognises a financial liability (an obligation to deliver cash) on the **commitment date**, rather than waiting for the closing date on which the exchange takes place.

Note that planned future transactions, no matter how likely, are not assets and liabilities of an entity – the entity has not yet become a party to the contract.

### 3.4 Derecognition of financial assets

6/12

Derecognition is the removal of a previously recognised financial instrument from an entity's statement of financial position.

An entity should derecognise a **financial asset** when:

- (a) The **contractual rights** to the cash flows from the financial asset **expire**, or
- (b) The entity **transfers the financial asset or substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership** of the financial asset to another party.

IFRS 9 gives **examples of where an entity has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership**. These include:

- (a) An unconditional sale of a financial asset
- (b) A sale of a financial asset together with an option to repurchase the financial asset at its fair value at the time of repurchase.

The standard also **provides examples of situations where the risks and rewards of ownership have not been transferred**:

- (a) A sale and repurchase transaction where the repurchase price is a fixed price or the sale price plus a lender's return
- (b) A sale of a financial asset together with a total return swap that transfers the market risk exposure back to the entity
- (c) A sale of short-term receivables in which the entity guarantees to compensate the transferee for credit losses that are likely to occur.

It is possible for only **part** of a financial asset or liability to be derecognised. This is allowed if the part comprises:

- (a) Only specifically identified cash flows; or
- (b) Only a fully proportionate (pro rata) share of the total cash flows.

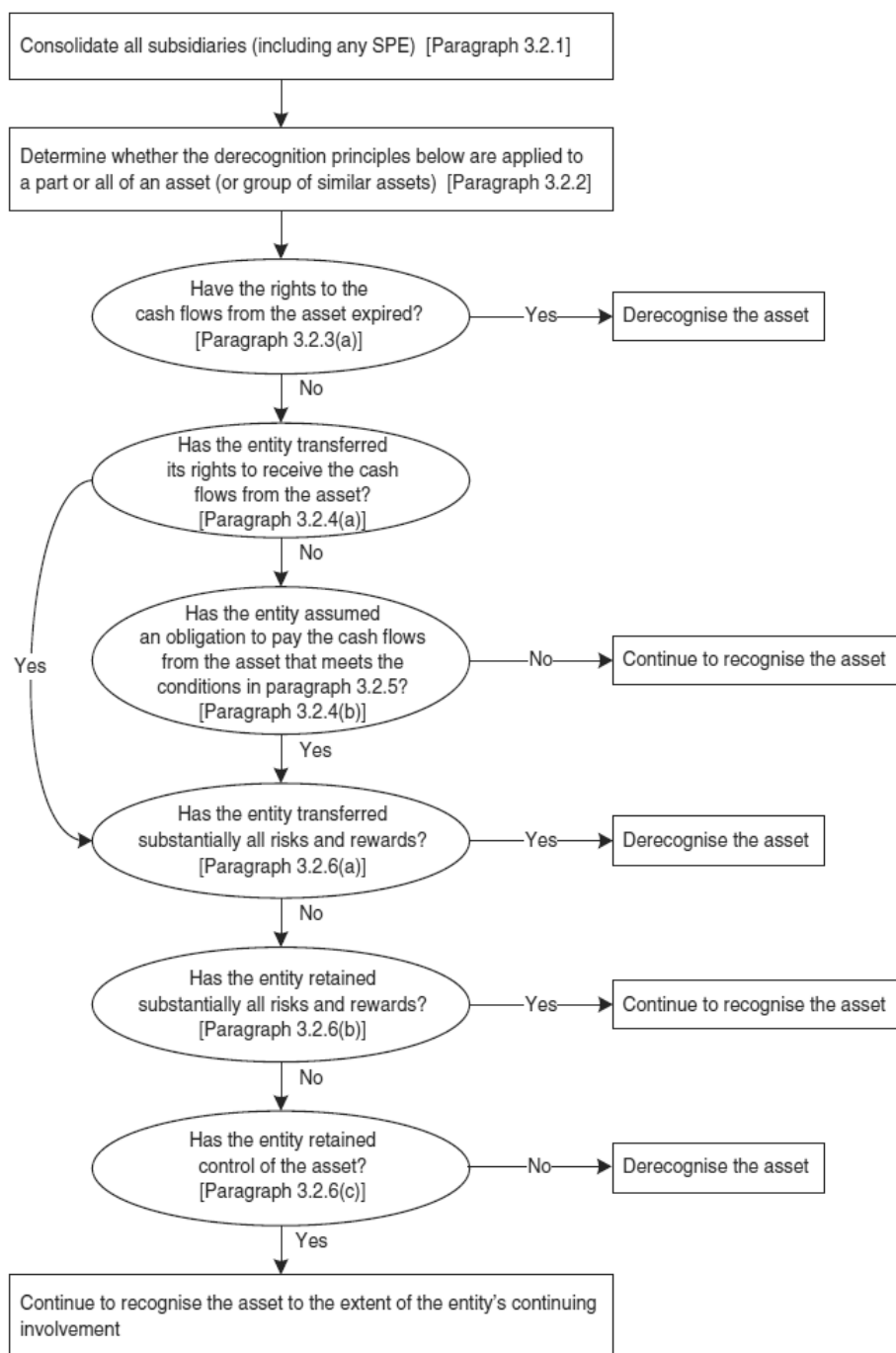
For example, if an entity holds a bond it has the right to two separate sets of cash inflows: those relating to the principal and those relating to the interest. It could sell the right to receive the interest to another party while retaining the right to receive the principal.

On derecognition, the amount to be included in net profit or loss for the period is calculated as follows.

#### Formula to learn

|  | \$       | \$         |
|--|----------|------------|
| Carrying amount (measured at the date of derecognition) allocated to the part derecognised                               |          | X          |
| Less: consideration received for the part derecognised (including any new asset obtained less any new liability assumed) | <u>X</u> | <u>(X)</u> |
| Difference to profit or loss   |          | <u>X</u>   |

The following flowchart, taken from the appendix to the standard, will help you decide whether, and to what extent, a financial asset is derecognised.



Source: IFRS 9

### 3.5 Derecognition of financial liabilities

A financial liability is derecognised **when it is extinguished** – ie when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged or cancelled or expires.

- (a) Where an existing borrower and lender of debt instruments exchange one financial instrument for another with substantially different terms, this is accounted for as an extinguishment of the original financial liability and the recognition of a new financial liability.

- (b) Similarly, a substantial modification of the terms of an existing financial liability or a part of it should be accounted for as an extinguishment of the original financial liability and the recognition of a new financial liability.
- (c) For this purpose, a modification is 'substantial' where the discounted present value of cash flows under the new terms, discounted using the original effective interest rate, is at least 10% different from the discounted present value of the cash flows of the original financial liability.
- (d) The difference between the carrying amount of a financial liability (or part of a financial liability) extinguished or transferred to another party and the consideration paid, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, shall be recognised in profit or loss.

## 3.6 Classification of financial assets

6/12

On **recognition**, IFRS 9 requires that financial assets are **classified as measured** at either:

- **Amortised cost**, or
- **Fair value**

### 3.6.1 Comparison table

The following table shows the extent to which IFRS 9 simplifies the IAS 39 definitions.

| Old IAS 39 Category                                  | Measured at    | Gains and losses           |
|--|----------------|----------------------------|
| Financial asset at fair value through profit or loss | Fair value     | Profit or loss             |
| Available for sale financial asset                   | Fair value     | Other comprehensive income |
| Financial asset held to maturity                     | Amortised cost | Profit or loss             |
| Loans and receivables                                | Amortised cost | Profit or loss             |

The IFRS 9 classification is made on the basis of both:

- (a) The **entity's business model** for managing the financial assets, and
- (b) The **contractual cash flow** characteristics of the financial asset.

A financial asset is classified as measured at amortised cost where:

- (a) The objective of the business model within which the asset is held is to hold assets in order to collect contractual cash flows and
- (b) The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal outstanding.

An application of these rules means that **equity investments may not be classified as measured at amortised cost** and must be measured at fair value. This is because contractual cash flows on specified dates are not a characteristic of equity instruments. In addition, **all derivatives are measured at fair value**.

A **debt instrument** may be classified as measured at either amortised cost or fair value **depending on whether it meets the criteria above**. Even where the criteria are met at initial recognition, a debt instrument may be classified as measured at fair value through profit or loss if doing so eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency (sometimes referred to as an 'accounting mismatch') that would otherwise arise from measuring assets or liabilities or recognising the gains and losses on them on different bases.

### 3.6.2 Business model test in more detail

IFRS 9 introduces a business model test that requires an entity to assess whether its **business objective for a debt instrument is to collect the contractual cash flows of the instrument as opposed to realising its fair value change from sale prior to its contractual maturity**. Note the following key points:

- (a) The assessment of a 'business model' is not made at an individual financial instrument level.
- (b) The assessment is based on how key management personnel actually manage the business, rather than management's intentions for specific financial assets.
- (c) An entity may have more than one business model for managing its financial assets and the classification need not be determined at the reporting entity level. For example, it may have one portfolio of investments that it manages with the objective of collecting contractual cash flows and another portfolio of investments held with the objective of trading to realise changes in fair value. It would be appropriate for entities like these to carry out the assessment for classification purposes at portfolio level, rather than at entity level.
- (d) Although the objective of an entity's business model may be to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows, the entity need not hold all of those assets until maturity. Thus an entity's business model can be to hold financial assets to collect contractual cash flows even when sales of financial assets occur.

### 3.6.3 Business model test: examples

The following examples, from the Application Guidance to IFRS 9, are of situations where the objective of an entity's business model may be to hold financial assets to collect the contractual cash flows.

#### Example 1

An entity holds investments to collect their contractual cash flows but would sell an investment in particular circumstances, perhaps to fund capital expenditure, or because the credit rating of the instrument falls below that required by the entity's investment policy.

#### Analysis

Although an entity may consider, among other information, the financial assets' fair values from a liquidity perspective (ie the cash amount that would be realised if the entity needs to sell assets), the entity's objective is to hold the financial assets and collect the contractual cash flows. Some sales would not contradict that objective. If sales became frequent, the entity might be required to reconsider whether the sales were consistent with an objective of collecting contractual cash flows.

#### Example 2

An entity has a business model with the objective of originating loans to customers and subsequently to sell those loans to a securitisation vehicle. The securitisation vehicle issues instruments to investors.

The originating entity controls the securitisation vehicle and thus consolidates it. The securitisation vehicle collects the contractual cash flows from the loans and passes them on to its investors in the vehicle.

It is assumed for the purposes of this example that the loans continue to be recognised in the consolidated statement of financial position because they are not derecognised by the securitisation vehicle.

#### Analysis

The consolidated group originated the loans with the objective of holding them to collect the contractual cash flows.

However, the originating entity has an objective of realising cash flows on the loan portfolio by selling the loans to the securitisation vehicle, so for the purposes of its separate financial statements it would not be considered to be managing this portfolio in order to collect the contractual cash flows.

### Example 3

An entity's business model is to purchase portfolios of financial assets, such as loans. Those portfolios may or may not include financial assets with incurred credit losses. If payment on the loans is not made on a timely basis, the entity attempts to extract the contractual cash flows through various means – for example, by contacting the debtor through mail, telephone, and so on.

In some cases, the entity enters into interest rate swaps to change the interest rate on particular financial assets in a portfolio from a floating interest rate to a fixed interest rate.

### Analysis

The objective of the entity's business model is to hold the financial assets and collect the contractual cash flows. The entity does not purchase the portfolio to make a profit by selling them.

The same analysis would apply even if the entity does not expect to receive all of the contractual cash flows (eg some of the financial assets have incurred credit losses).

Moreover, the fact that the entity has entered into derivatives to modify the cash flows of the portfolio does not in itself change the entity's business model. If the portfolio is not managed on a fair value basis, the objective of the business model could be to hold the assets to collect the contractual cash flows.

### 3.6.4 Contractual cash flow test in more detail

The requirement in IFRS 9 to assess the contractual cash flow characteristics of a financial asset is based on the concept that **only instruments with contractual cash flows of principal and interest on principal may qualify for amortised cost measurement**. By interest, IFRS 9 means consideration for the time value of money and the credit risk associated with the principal outstanding during a particular period of time.



#### Question

#### Contractual cash flows

Would an investment in a convertible loan qualify to be measured at amortised cost under IFRS 9?

#### Answer

No, because of the inclusion of the conversion option which is not deemed to represent payments of principal and interest

Measurement at amortised cost is permitted when the cash flows on a loan are entirely fixed (eg a fixed interest rate loan or zero coupon bond), or where interest is floating (eg a GBP loan where interest is contractually linked to GBP LIBOR), or combination of fixed and floating (eg where interest is LIBOR plus a fixed spread).

### 3.6.5 Examples of instruments that pass the contractual cash flows test

The following instruments satisfy the IFRS 9 criteria.

- (a) A variable rate instrument with a stated maturity date that permits the borrower to choose to pay three-month LIBOR for a three-month term or one-month LIBOR for a one-month term
- (b) A fixed term variable market interest rate bond where the variable interest rate is capped
- (c) A fixed term bond where the payments of principal and interest are linked to an unleveraged inflation index of the currency in which the instrument is issued

### 3.6.6 Examples of instruments that do not pass the contractual cash flows test

The following instruments do not satisfy the IFRS 9 criteria.

- (a) A bond that is convertible into equity instruments of the issuer (see question above)
- (b) A loan that pays an inverse floating interest rate (eg 8% minus LIBOR)

Note that the IFRS 9 requirement to classify financial assets on recognition as one of two types is **a significant simplification** of the previous IAS 39 rules. These required financial assets to be classified as one of four types, being:

- At fair value through profit or loss
- Held to maturity
- Available for sale, and
- Loans and receivables.

### 3.7 Classification of financial liabilities

On **recognition**, IFRS 9 requires that financial assets are **classified as measured** at either:

- (a) **At fair value through profit or loss**, or
- (b) Financial liabilities at **amortised cost**.

A financial liability is classified at fair value through profit or loss if:

- (a) It is **held for trading**, or
- (b) Upon initial recognition it is **designated at fair value through profit or loss**.

**Derivatives are always measured at fair value through profit or loss.**

These classification rules are unchanged from those previously contained within IAS 39.

### 3.8 Re-classification of financial assets

Although on initial recognition financial instruments must be classified in accordance with the requirements of IFRS 9, in some cases they may be subsequently reclassified. IFRS 9 requires that **when an entity changes its business model for managing financial assets, it should reclassify all affected financial assets**. This reclassification applies only to debt instruments, as equity instruments must be classified as measured at fair value.

The application guidance to IFRS 9 includes examples of circumstances when a reclassification is required or is not permitted.

#### 3.8.1 Examples: Reclassification permitted

**Reclassification is permitted** in the following circumstances, because a **change in the business model** has taken place:

- (a) An entity has a portfolio of commercial loans that it holds to sell in the short term. The entity acquires a company that manages commercial loans and has a business model that holds the loans in order to collect the contractual cash flows. The portfolio of commercial loans is no longer for sale, and the portfolio is now managed together with the acquired commercial loans and all are held to collect the contractual cash flows.
- (b) A financial services firm decides to shut down its retail mortgage business. That business no longer accepts new business and the financial services firm is actively marketing its mortgage loan portfolio for sale.

### 3.8.2 Examples: Reclassification not permitted

Reclassification is **not permitted** in the following circumstances, because a **change in the business model has not taken place**.

- (a) A change in intention related to particular financial assets (even in circumstances of significant changes in market conditions)
- (b) A temporary disappearance of a particular market for financial assets
- (c) A transfer of financial assets between parts of the entity with different business models.

Reclassification of financial liabilities is not permitted.

## 3.9 Section summary

- **All financial assets and liabilities** should be **recognised in the statement of financial position**, including derivatives.
- Financial assets should be derecognised when the **rights to the cash flows** from the asset **expire** or where **substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred** to another party.
- Financial liabilities should be derecognised when they are **extinguished**.

## 4 Measurement of financial instruments

6/11

### Exam focus point

The P2 examiner has indicated that questions on financial assets will be set with IFRS 9 in mind. Note that IAS 39 still applies to impairment and hedging.

### FAST FORWARD

Financial assets should initially be measured at **cost = fair value**.

**Transaction costs increase this amount for financial assets** classified as measured at amortised cost, or where an irrevocable election has been made to take all gains and losses through other comprehensive income and **decrease this amount for financial liabilities** classified as measured at amortised cost.

**Subsequent measurement** of both financial assets and financial liabilities depends on how the instrument is classified: at amortised cost or fair value.

### 4.1 Initial measurement: financial assets

Financial instruments are initially measured at the transaction price, that is the **fair value** of the consideration given.

An **exception** is where part of the consideration given is for something other than the financial asset. In this case the financial asset is initially measured at fair value evidenced by a quoted price in an active market for an identical asset (ie an IFRS 13 level 1 input) or based on a valuation technique that uses only data from observable markets. The difference between the fair value at initial recognition and the transaction price is recognised as a gain or loss.

In the case of financial assets classified as measured at **amortised cost**, **transaction costs** directly attributable to the acquisition of the financial asset are **added** to this amount.

### 4.2 Initial measurement: financial liabilities

IFRS 9 requires that financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price, ie the fair value of consideration received except where part of the consideration received is for something other than the financial liability. In this case the financial liability is initially measured at fair value measured as for financial assets (see above). Transaction costs are deducted from this amount for financial liabilities classified as measured at amortised cost.

### 4.3 Subsequent measurement of financial assets

Under IFRS 9, financial assets are measured subsequent to recognition either at:

- At **amortised cost**, using the **effective interest method**, or
- At **fair value**

### 4.4 Financial assets measured at amortised cost

#### Key terms

**Amortised cost** of a financial asset or financial liability is the amount at which the financial asset or liability is measured at initial recognition minus principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative amortisation of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount, and minus any write-down (directly or through the use of an allowance account) for impairment or uncollectability.

The **effective interest method** is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial instrument and of allocating the interest income or interest expense over the relevant period.

The **effective interest rate** is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts through the expected life of the financial instrument to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or liability. (IFRS 9)

### 4.5 Example: Financial asset at amortised cost

On 1 January 20X1 Abacus Co purchases a debt instrument for its fair value of \$1,000. The debt instrument is due to mature on 31 December 20X5. The instrument has a principal amount of \$1,250 and the instrument carries fixed interest at 4.72% that is paid annually. (The effective interest rate is 10%.)

How should Abacus Co account for the debt instrument over its five year term?

#### Solution

Abacus Co will receive interest of \$59 ( $1,250 \times 4.72\%$ ) each year and \$1,250 when the instrument matures.

Abacus must allocate the discount of \$250 and the interest receivable over the five year term at a constant rate on the carrying amount of the debt. To do this, it must apply the effective interest rate of 10%.

The following table shows the allocation over the years:

| Year | Amortised cost at beginning of year | Profit or loss: Interest income for year (@10%) | Interest received during year (cash inflow) | Amortised cost at end of year |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
|      | \$                                  | \$  | \$  | \$                            |
| 20X1 | 1,000                               | 100   | (59)  | 1,041                         |
| 20X2 | 1,041                               | 104   | (59)  | 1,086                         |
| 20X3 | 1,086                               | 109   | (59)  | 1,136                         |
| 20X4 | 1,136                               | 113   | (59)  | 1,190                         |
| 20X5 | 1,190                               | 119   | (1,250 + 59)                                | —                             |

Each year the carrying amount of the financial asset is increased by the interest income for the year and reduced by the interest actually received during the year.

Investments whose **fair value cannot be reliably measured** should be measured at **cost**.

### 4.6 Financial assets measured at fair value

Where a financial asset is classified as measured at fair value, fair value is established at each period end in accordance with IFRS 13 *Fair value measurement*. That standard requires that a fair value hierarchy is applied with three levels of input:

**Level 1 inputs.** Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.



**Level 2 inputs.** Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These may include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or quoted prices for identical or similar assets and liabilities in markets that are not active.

**Level 3 inputs.** Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Any changes in fair value are normally recognised in profit or loss.

There are two **exceptions** to this rule:

- (a) The asset is **part of a hedging relationship** (see Section 6)
- (b) The financial asset is an investment in an **equity instrument not held for trading**. In this case the entity can make an **irrevocable election** to recognise changes in the fair value in **other comprehensive income**.

Note that direct costs of acquisition are capitalised only in the case of a financial asset or financial liability **not** held at fair value through profit or loss. If the asset or liability is held at fair value through profit or loss, the costs of acquisition are expensed. This means that in the case of **financial assets held at amortised cost, costs of acquisition are capitalised**. They would be added to the asset and deducted from the liability amount. Similarly, if an **irrevocable election** has been made to take **gains and losses** on the financial asset **to other comprehensive income**, costs of acquisition should be **added to the purchase cost**.

## 4.7 Example: Asset measurement

On 8 February 20X8 Orange Co acquires a quoted investment in the shares of Lemon Co with the intention of holding it in the long term. The investment cost \$850,000. At Orange Co's year end of 31 March 20X8, the market price of an identical investment is \$900,000. How is the asset initially and subsequently measured?

Orange Co has elected to recognise changes in the fair value of the equity investment in other comprehensive income.

### Solution

- The asset is initially recognised at the fair value of the consideration, being \$850,000
- At the period end it is re-measured to \$900,000
- This results in the recognition of \$50,000 in other comprehensive income



### Question

### Equity instrument and transaction costs

In January 20X6 Wolf purchased 10 million \$1 listed equity shares in Hall at a price of \$5 per share. Transaction costs were \$3m. Wolf's year end is 30 November.

At 30 November 20X6, the shares in Hall were trading at \$6.50. On 31 October 20X6 Wolf received a dividend of from Hall of 20c per share.

Show the financial statement extracts of Wolf at 30 November 20X6 relating to the investment in Hall on the basis that:

- (i) The shares were bought for trading
- (ii) The shares were bought as a source of dividend income and were the subject of an irrevocable election at initial recognition to recognise them at fair value through other comprehensive income.

(i)

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (EXTRACT)

\$m

*Profit or loss for the year*

Investment income ( $10\text{m} \times (6.5 - 5.0)$ ) 15

Dividend income ( $10\text{m} \times 20\text{c}$ ) 2

Transaction costs (3)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (EXTRACT)

Investments in equity instruments ( $10\text{m} \times 6.5$ ) 65

(ii)

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (EXTRACT)

\$m

*Profit or loss for the year*

Dividend income 2

*Other comprehensive income*

Gain on investment in equity instruments 15

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (EXTRACT)

Investments in equity instruments  
( $(10\text{m} \times 6.5) + 3\text{m}$ ) 68

### 4.7.1 Subsequent measurement of financial liabilities

After initial recognition, all financial liabilities should be measured at **amortised cost**, with the exception of financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (including most derivatives). These should be measured at **fair value**, but where the fair value is **not capable of reliable measurement**, they should be measured at **cost**.

### 4.8 Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost

The definitions of amortised cost, effective interest method and effective interest rate that are used for measurement of financial assets are also used for financial liabilities.

### 4.9 Example: Financial liability at amortised cost

Galaxy Co issues a bond for \$503,778 on 1 January 20X2. No interest is payable on the bond, but it will be redeemed on 31 December 20X4 for \$600,000. The effective interest rate of the bond is 6%.

*Required*

Calculate the charge to profit or loss of Galaxy Co for the year ended 31 December 20X2 and the balance outstanding at 31 December 20X2.

## Solution

The bond is a 'deep discount' bond and is a financial liability of Galaxy Co. It is measured at amortised cost. Although there is no interest as such, the difference between the initial cost of the bond and the price at which it will be redeemed is a finance cost. This must be allocated over the term of the bond at a constant rate on the carrying amount.

The effective interest rate is 6%.

The charge to profit or loss for the year is \$30,226 ( $503,778 \times 6\%$ )

The balance outstanding at 31 December 20X2 is \$534,004 ( $503,778 + 30,226$ )



### Question

Finance cost 1

On 1 January 20X3 Deferred issued \$600,000 loan notes. Issue costs were \$200. The loan notes do not carry interest, but are redeemable at a premium of \$152,389 on 31 December 20X4. The effective finance cost of the debentures is 12%.

What is the finance cost in respect of the loan notes for the year ended 31 December 20X4?

- A \$72,000
- B \$76,194
- C \$80,613
- D \$80,640

### Answer

- C The premium on redemption of the preferred shares represents a finance cost. The effective rate of interest must be applied so that the debt is measured at amortised cost.

At the time of issue, the loan notes are recognised at their net proceeds of \$599,800 ( $600,000 - 200$ ).

The finance cost for the year ended 31 December 20X4 is calculated as follows:

|      | <i>B/f</i> | <i>Interest @ 12%</i> | <i>C/f</i> |
|------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
|      | \$         | \$                    | \$         |
| 20X3 | 599,800    | 71,976                | 671,776    |
| 20X4 | 671,776    | 80,613                | 752,389    |



### Question

Finance cost 2

On 1 January 20X5, an entity issued a debt instrument with a coupon rate of 3.5% at a par value of \$6,000,000. The directly attributable costs of issue were \$120,000. The debt instrument is repayable on 31 December 2011 at a premium of \$1,100,000.

What is the total amount of the finance cost associated with the debt instrument?

- A \$1,470,000
- B \$1,590,000
- C \$2,570,000
- D \$2,690,000

### Answer

D

|  | \$               |
|--|------------------|
| Issue costs                                  | 120,000          |
| Interest $\$6,000,000 \times 3.5\% \times 7$ | 1,470,000        |
| Premium on redemption                        | 1,100,000        |
| Total finance cost                           | <u>2,690,000</u> |



## Question

## Classification

During the financial year ended 28 February 20X5, MN issued the two financial instruments described below. For *each* of the instruments, identify whether it should be classified as debt or equity, **explaining in not more than 40 words each** the reason for your choice. In each case you should refer to the relevant International Accounting Standard or International Financial Reporting Standard.

- (i) Redeemable preferred shares with a coupon rate 8%. The shares are redeemable on 28 February 20X9 at premium of 10%.
- (ii) A grant of share options to senior executives. The options may be exercised from 28 February 20X8.

## Answer

- (i) **Debt.** The preference shares require regular distributions to the holders but more importantly have the debt characteristic of being redeemable. Therefore, according to IAS 32 *Financial instruments: Presentation* they must be classified as debt.
- (ii) **Equity.** According to IFRS 2 *Share based payment* the grant of share options must be recorded as equity in the statement of financial position. It is an alternative method of payment to cash for the provision of the services of the directors.



## Question

## Hybrid financial instrument

On 1 January 20X1, EFG issued 10,000 5% convertible bonds at their par value of \$50 each. The bonds will be redeemed on 1 January 20X6. Each bond is convertible at the option of the holder at any time during the five-year period. Interest on the bond will be paid annually in arrears.

The prevailing market interest rate for similar debt without conversion options at the date of issue was 6%.

At what value should the equity element of the hybrid financial instrument be recognised in the financial statements of EFG at the date of issue?

## Answer

**Top tip.** The method to use here is to find the present value of the principal value of the bond, \$500,000 ( $10,000 \times \$50$ ) and the interest payments of \$25,000 annually ( $5\% \times \$500,000$ ) at the market rate for non-convertible bonds of 6%, using the discount factor tables. The difference between this total and the principal amount of \$500,000 is the equity element.

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
|   | \$            |
| Present value of principal $\$500,000 \times 0.747$ | 373,500       |
| Present value of interest $\$25,000 \times 4.212$   | 105,300       |
| Liability value                                     | 478,800       |
| Principal amount                                    | 500,000       |
| Equity element                                      | <u>21,200</u> |



## Question

## Subsequent measurement

After initial recognition, all financial liabilities should be measured at amortised cost.

True

☐

False

☐

False. Some may be measured at fair value through profit or loss.

## 4.10 Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

Financial liabilities which are held for trading are re-measured to fair value each year in accordance with IFRS 13 *Fair value measurement* (see Section 4.6) with any gain or loss recognised in profit or loss.

### 4.10.1 Exceptions

The exceptions to the above treatment of financial liabilities are:

- (a) It is part of a hedging arrangement (see Section 6)
- (b) It is a financial liability designated as at fair value through profit or loss and the entity is required to present the effects of changes in the liability's **credit risk** in other comprehensive income (see 4.10.2 below).

### 4.10.2 Credit risk

IFRS 9 requires that financial liabilities which are **designated as measured at fair value through profit or loss are treated differently**. In this case the gain or loss in a period must be classified into:

- Gain or loss **resulting from credit risk**, and
- **Other** gain or loss.

This change to IFRS 9 was made in 2010 in response to an anomaly regarding changes in the credit risk of a financial liability.

**Changes in a financial liability's credit risk affect the fair value of that financial liability.** This means that when an entity's creditworthiness deteriorates, the fair value of its issued debt will decrease (and *vice versa*). For financial liabilities measured using the fair value option, this causes **a gain (or loss) to be recognised in profit or loss for the year**. For example:

#### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (EXTRACT) PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Liabilities at fair value (except derivatives and liabilities held for trading) | \$'000 |
| Change in fair value  | 100    |
| Profit (loss) for the year  | 100    |

Many users of financial statements found this result to be **counter-intuitive** and confusing. Accordingly, IFRS 9 requires the gain or loss as a result of credit risk to be recognised in other comprehensive income, unless it creates or enlarges an **accounting mismatch** (see 4.10.4), in which case it is recognised in profit or loss. The other gain or loss (not the result of credit risk) is recognised in profit or loss.

On derecognition any gains or losses recognised in other comprehensive income are **not transferred to profit or loss**, although the cumulative gain or loss may be transferred within equity.

### 4.10.3 Example of IFRS 9 presentation

#### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (EXTRACT) PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Liabilities at fair value (except derivatives and liabilities held for trading) | \$'000 |
| Change in fair value from own credit  | 90     |
| Profit (loss) for the year  | 90     |

#### OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (NOT RECLASSIFIED TO PROFIT OR LOSS)

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Fair value loss on financial liability attributable to change in credit risk | 10  |
| Total comprehensive income   | 100 |

#### 4.10.4 Accounting mismatch

The new guidance allows the recognition of the full amount of change in the fair value in the profit or loss only if the recognition of changes in the liability's **credit risk** in other comprehensive income would **create** or **enlarge** an **accounting mismatch** in profit or loss. That determination is made at initial recognition and is not reassessed.

An accounting mismatch is a measurement or recognition **inconsistency** arising from measuring assets or liabilities or recognising the gains or losses on them on different bases.

Other than the requirements regarding components of changes in the fair value of a liability relating to own credit, and the treatment of derivatives (see Section 5.3), the accounting requirements for liabilities are unchanged from IAS 39.

### 4.11 Impairment of financial assets

**Note. Impairment is still governed by IAS 39.**

At each year end, an entity should assess whether there is any objective evidence that a financial asset or group of assets is impaired.



#### Question

#### Impairment

Give examples of indications that a financial asset or group of assets may be impaired.

#### Answer

IAS 39 lists the following:

- (a) Significant financial difficulty of the issuer
- (b) A breach of contract, such as a default in interest or principal payments
- (c) The lender granting a concession to the borrower that the lender would not otherwise consider, for reasons relating to the borrower's financial difficulty
- (d) It becomes probable that the borrower will enter bankruptcy
- (e) The disappearance of an active market for that financial asset because of financial difficulties

Where there is objective evidence of impairment, the entity should **measure the amount** of any impairment loss.

The impairment loss is the **difference** between the asset's **carrying amount** and its **recoverable amount**. The asset's recoverable amount is the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the financial instrument's **original** effective interest rate.

The amount of the loss should be **recognised in profit or loss**.

If the impairment loss decreases at a later date (and the decrease relates to an event occurring **after** the impairment was recognised) the reversal is recognised in profit or loss. The carrying amount of the asset must not exceed the original amortised cost.

### 4.12 Example: Impairment

Broadfield Co purchased 5% debentures in X Co on 1 January 20X3 (their issue date) for \$100,000. The term of the debentures was four years and the maturity value is \$130,525. The effective rate of interest on the debentures is 10% and the IFRS 9 conditions are satisfied for the investment to be held at amortised cost.

At the end of 20X4 X Co went into liquidation. All interest had been paid until that date. On 31 December 20X4 the liquidator of X Co announced that no further interest would be paid and only 80% of the maturity value would be repaid, on the original repayment date.

The market interest rate on similar bonds is 8% on that date.

*Required*

- What value should the debentures have been stated at just before the impairment became apparent?
- At what value should the debentures be stated at 31 December 20X4, after the impairment?
- How will the impairment be reported in the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 20X4?

## Solution

- The debentures are classified as held at amortised cost:

|                     | \$             |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Initial cost        | 100,000        |
| Interest at 10%     | 10,000         |
| Cash at 5%          | (5,000)        |
| At 31 December 20X3 | 105,000        |
| Interest at 10%     | 10,500         |
| Cash at 5%          | (5,000)        |
| At 31 December 20X4 | <u>110,500</u> |

- After the impairment, the debentures are stated at their recoverable amount (using the **original** effective interest rate of 10%):

$$80\% \times \$130,525 \times 0.826 = \$86,251$$

- The impairment of \$24,249 (\$110,500 – \$86,251) should be recorded:

|                        |          |          |
|------------------------|----------|----------|
| DEBIT Profit or loss   | \$24,249 |          |
| CREDIT Financial asset |          | \$24,249 |

## 4.13 Exposure Draft: Amortised cost and impairment

This Exposure Draft, published in November 2009 is Phase 2 of the revision of IAS 39, IFRS 9 on assets being Phase 1 and hedging being Phase 3.

### 4.13.1 Why change?

Both IFRS and US GAAP currently use an **'incurred loss' model** for the impairment of financial assets. This model assumes that all loans will be repaid until evidence to the contrary, that is until the occurrence of an event that triggers an impairment indicator. Only at this point is the impaired loan written down to a lower value. The global financial crisis has led to criticism of this approach for many reasons, including that it leads to an overstatement of interest revenue in the periods prior to the occurrence of a loss event, and produces deficient information.

### 4.13.2 Amortised cost

The ED set out principles to calculate amortised cost including:

- Defining the objective of amortised cost measurement for both financial assets and financial liabilities
- Explaining the measurement principles in determining amortised cost
- Articulating more clearly the application of these principles to variable rate instruments

Specifically:

- The ED states that the objective of amortised cost is 'to provide information about the effective return on a financial asset or financial liability by allocating interest revenue or interest expense over the expected life of the financial instrument'
- It contains more guidance on amortised cost of a variable instrument (ie it is the constant spread of a variable rate financial instrument that amortised cost applies to).

### 4.13.3 Impairment

Under the proposals, the 'incurred loss' model would be replaced with an approach **whereby expected losses are recognised throughout the life of the loan** (or other financial asset measured at amortised cost), and not just after a loss event has been identified. This is known as **an expected cash flow (ECF) approach**. Note the following.

- (a) The ECF approach uses forward-looking cash flows that incorporate expected future credit losses throughout the term of a financial asset (eg, a loan). In contrast to the existing incurred loss approach, the ECF approach would not require identification of impairment indicators or triggering events and would result in earlier recognition of credit losses.
- (b) The effective interest rate will include an initial estimate of any expected credit losses. Credit losses will be held in a separate allowance account. Losses due to changes in cash flow estimates disclosed as a separate line item. If the item is considered uncollectable, write-offs will be made directly to the financial asset account.

### 4.13.4 Example: Expected losses

The following example is taken from the notes to a meeting of a joint IASB-FASB committee in March 2009.

An entity has a portfolio of 1,000 identical loans for \$2,500 made on 1 January 20X1. Each loan has a contractual interest rate of 16 per cent and requires interest payments of \$400 on each December 31 for nine years, followed by a payment of \$2,900 on December 31 of the tenth year. The loans cannot be pre-paid. There are no transaction costs, fees, or origination costs. As a result, the effective interest rate as defined in IAS 39 is the same as the contractual rate.

Management estimates that no loans will default in 20X1 or 20X2. Beginning in 20X3, loans will default at an annual rate of about 9 per cent. If that expectation is correct, then the rate of return from the portfolio will be approximately 9.07 per cent.

There are several ways that an expected loss approach might be implemented. For purposes of this paper we have made two assumptions to fully integrate the approach into the loan accounting. First, the amount reported as interest income should continue to represent the contractual amount from outstanding loans. Second, the objective of the expected loss computation is to report the 9.07 per cent expected return described earlier. With those assumptions, the expected loss approach is consistent with the underlying principles of loan accounting in IAS 39, except that it includes expected future credit losses.

Assuming again that losses occur as expected, selected amounts in the entity's financial statements would be:

|          | <i>Expected Loss Model</i>         |                            |   |   |                                    |                                     |
|----------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|          | <i>Loans, net<br/>of allowance</i> | <i>Interest<br/>income</i> | <i>Loan loss<br/>expense<br/>(incurred)</i> | <i>Expected<br/>loss<br/>adjustment</i> | <i>Interest less<br/>loan loss</i> | <i>Return, net<br/>of loan loss</i> |
| 31/12/X1 | 2,326,689                          | 400,000                    | 0   | 173,311                                 | 226,689                            | 9.07%                               |
| 31/12/X2 | 2,137,662                          | 400,000                    | 0   | 189,027                                 | 210,973                            | 9.07%                               |
| 31/12/X3 | 1,967,496                          | 364,000                    | 225,000                                     | -54,834                                 | 193,834                            | 9.07%                               |
| 31/12/X4 | 1,814,300                          | 331,600                    | 202,500                                     | -49,304                                 | 178,404                            | 9.07%                               |
| 31/12/X6 | 1,676,812                          | 302,000                    | 185,000                                     | -47,512                                 | 164,512                            | 9.07%                               |
| 31/12/X7 | 1,553,658                          | 275,200                    | 167,500                                     | -44,346                                 | 152,046                            | 9.07%                               |
| 31/12/X8 | 1,443,737                          | 250,800                    | 152,500                                     | -42,579                                 | 140,879                            | 9.07%                               |
| 31/12/X9 | 1,346,248                          | 228,400                    | 140,000                                     | -42,511                                 | 130,911                            | 9.07%                               |
| 31/12/Y0 | 1,260,320                          | 208,000                    | 127,500                                     | -41,572                                 | 122,072                            | 9.07%                               |
| 31/12/Y1 | 0                                  | 189,600                    | 115,000                                     | -39,680                                 | 114,280                            | 9.07%                               |



### Alternative presentation

Below is an alternative presentation for the first two years to show how the figures are calculated:

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
|   | \$               |
| 1.1.20X1 Loans  | 2,500,000        |
| Interest 20X1 (16%) (using the full effective and contractual rate) | 400,000          |
| 31.12.20X1 Interest received  | (400,000)        |
| Loss adjustment (400,000 – 226,689*)                                | (173,311)        |
| 31.12.20X1 c/f  | <u>2,326,689</u> |

\* Interest calculated using the loss adjusted rate of 9.06756% on the carrying value (9.06756% × 2,500,000)

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
|   | \$               |
| 1.1.20X2 b/f  | 2,326,689        |
| Interest 20X2 (16%) (using the full effective and contractual rate**) | 400,000          |
| 31.12.20X2 Interest received  | (400,000)        |
| Loss adjustment (400,000 – 210,973***)                                | (189,027)        |
| 31.12.20X2 c/f  | <u>2,137,662</u> |

\*\* Loss adjustment is actually credited to an allowance account, so offset against the loan asset on the statement of financial position. The interest continues to be calculated on the loan balance of \$2,500,000.

\*\*\* The loss adjusted interest is calculated on the balance brought forward net of the allowance.

Then when losses start to be incurred in the third year:

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
|   | \$               |
| 1.1.20X3 b/f  | 2,137,662        |
| Loans in default written off (\$2,500,000 × 9%)                         | (225,000)        |
| Interest 20X3 (16%) (using the full effective and contractual rate****) | 364,000          |
| 31.12.20X3 Interest received  | (364,000)        |
| Loss adjustment (364,000 – 193,834***** – 225,000***** )                | 54,834           |
| 31.12.20X3 c/f  | <u>1,967,496</u> |

\*\*\*\* The contract/effective interest is now applied only to the remaining loans \$2,275,000 (\$2,500,000 – \$225,000)

\*\*\*\*\* The loss adjusted interest is calculated as (9.06756% × 2,137,662)

\*\*\*\*\* The loans written off will be debited to the loss allowance account

### Exam focus point

The principles in this ED were examined in June 2011, with a simple numerical example.

## 4.13.5 Disclosures

The ED would require **extensive disclosures provide investors with an understanding of the loss estimates** that an entity judges necessary and to enable users to evaluate the financial effect of interest revenue and expense, and the quality of financial assets including credit risk. These include:

- Mandatory use of an **allowance account** to account for credit losses
- Detail about estimates** and changes in estimates; reconciliation of changes in an entity's non-performing assets, that is financial assets more than 90 days overdue or considered uncollectible.
- Information about the **origination and maturity** of financial assets
- The results of '**stress testing**', if this is performed for internal risk management. (Stress testing is where management look at how robust a particular financial instrument is in certain extreme cases.)

The following disclosures must be made on the face of the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income:

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Gross interest revenue (effective interest method before initial credit losses) | X     |
| Reduction due to allocation of initial expected credit losses                   | (X)   |
| Net (must be shown)   | X     |
| Gains/(losses) due to changes in estimates                                      | X/(X) |
| Interest expense  | (X)   |

#### 4.13.6 Possible consequences

The proposals represent a **significant change from current practice**. The IASB acknowledges that their application would probably result in significant systems and operational challenges such as developing reliable estimates of cash flows over the expected lives of financial assets. Accordingly, the IASB proposes that the IFRS resulting from ED will not become mandatory until about three years after it is issued.

#### 4.13.7 January 2011 supplement

##### Background, objective and scope

In January 2011, the IASB issued a supplement to the ED addressing some of the major operational difficulties identified by respondents, particularly for open portfolios. The aim is **to make it easier for entities to implement the original proposals in the ED**. The supplement applies only to **financial assets measured at amortised cost and managed in an open portfolio**, excluding short-term trade receivables.

##### 'Good book' – 'bad book'

A distinction is made in many financial institutions between two broad groups of financial assets:

- Loans that are not considered problematic (the '**good book**'). These are generally monitored on a portfolio basis.
- Loans that are considered problematic (the '**bad book**'). These are generally managed more closely, often on an individual basis.

The supplement proposes **that expected credit losses in the 'good book' should be recognised under a time-proportional approach** based on the weighted average age and expected life of the assets in the portfolio. This is subject to a minimum allowance of at least those credit losses expected to occur in the foreseeable future (a period of not less than 12 months from the reporting date).

For the '**bad book**', the supplement proposes that **expected losses should be recognised immediately**.

##### New presentation and disclosure requirements

Also included in the supplement is an appendix that includes presentation and disclosure requirements. These have been considered by the IASB, but not yet by FASB. The disclosures relate to the new proposals in the supplement.

#### 4.14 Section summary

- On initial recognition, **financial assets** are measured at **the fair value of the consideration given**. **Financial liabilities** are measured at **the fair value of the consideration received** (IFRS 9)
- Subsequent measurement depends on how a financial asset is **classified**. **Financial assets and financial liabilities** are classified at **amortised cost** or at **fair value**.
- Financial instruments at **fair value through profit or loss** are measured at **fair value**; gains and losses are recognised in **profit or loss**.
- Financial instruments at **amortised cost** are measured using the **effective interest method**.
- Impairment of financial assets** is still governed by IAS 39. An **ED** on amortised cost and impairment **proposes changing from an incurred loss model to an expected cash flow model**.

## 5 Embedded derivatives

### FAST FORWARD

An **embedded derivative** is a derivative instrument that is combined with a non-derivative **host contract** to form a single hybrid instrument

Certain contracts that are not themselves derivatives (and may not be financial instruments) include derivative contracts that are 'embedded' within them. These non-derivatives are called **host contracts**.

### Key term

An **embedded derivative** is a derivative instrument that is combined with a non-derivative host contract to form a single hybrid instrument.

### 5.1 Examples of host contracts

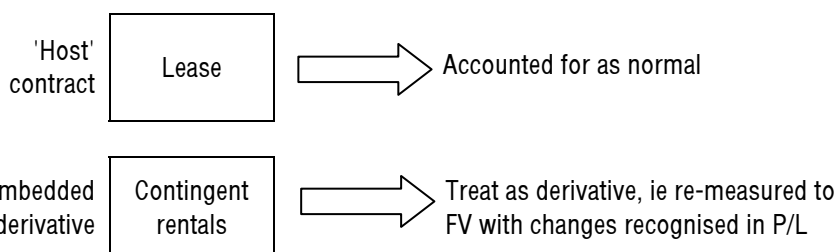
Possible examples include:

- (a) A lease
- (b) A debt or equity instrument
- (c) An insurance contract
- (d) A sale or purchase contract
- (e) A construction contract

### 5.2 Examples of embedded derivatives

Possible examples include:

- (a) A term in a lease of retail premises that provides for contingent rentals based on sales:



- (b) A bond which is redeemable in five years' time with part of the redemption price being based on the increase in the FTSE 100 Index.
- (c) Construction contract priced in a foreign currency. The construction contract is a non-derivative contract, but the changes in foreign exchange rate is the embedded derivative.

### 5.3 Accounting treatment of embedded derivatives

#### 5.3.1 Financial asset host contract

Where the host contract is a financial asset within the scope of the standard, the classification and **measurement rules of the standard are applied to the entire hybrid contract**.

This is a simplification of the IAS 39 rules, which required that an embedded derivative be **separated from its host contract** and accounted for as a derivative under certain conditions. These rules applied to financial assets as well as other host contracts.

#### 5.3.2 Other host contracts

Where the host contract is not a financial asset within the scope of IFRS 9, the standard requires that an embedded derivative be **separated from its host contract** and accounted for as a derivative when the following conditions are met.

- (a) The economic characteristics and risks of the embedded derivative are not closely related to the economic characteristics and risks of the host contract.
- (b) A separate instrument with the same terms as the embedded derivative would meet the definition of a derivative.
- (c) The hybrid (combined) instrument is not measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in the profit or loss (a derivative embedded in a financial liability need not be separated out if the entity holds the combined instrument at fair value through profit or loss).

## 5.4 Section summary

- Where the host contract is **an asset within the scope of IFRS 9** the hybrid contract is accounted for as **one instrument**.
- Otherwise**, IFRS 9 requires that the embedded derivative is **separated from the host contract** where certain conditions are met and accounted for separately.

# 6 Hedging

## FAST FORWARD

Hedging is allowed in certain strictly defined circumstances.

## 6.1 Introduction

IAS 39 **requires hedge accounting** where there is a **designated hedging relationship** between a hedging instrument and a hedged item. It is **prohibited otherwise**.

## Key terms

**Hedging**, for accounting purposes, means designating one or more hedging instruments so that their change in fair value is an offset, in whole or in part, to the change in fair value or cash flows of a hedged item.

A **hedged item** is an asset, liability, firm commitment, or forecasted future transaction that:

- (a) exposes the entity to risk of changes in fair value or changes in future cash flows, and that
- (b) is designated as being hedged.

A **hedging instrument** is a designated derivative or (in limited circumstances) another financial asset or liability whose fair value or cash flows are expected to offset changes in the fair value or cash flows of a designated hedged item. (A non-derivative financial asset or liability may be designated as a hedging instrument for hedge accounting purposes only if it hedges the risk of changes in foreign currency exchange rates.)

**Hedge effectiveness** is the degree to which changes in the fair value or cash flows of the hedged item attributable to a hedged risk are offset by changes in the fair value or cash flows of the hedging instrument. (IAS 39)

In simple terms, entities hedge to reduce their exposure to risk and uncertainty, such as changes in prices, interest rates or foreign exchange rates. Hedge accounting recognises hedging relationships by allowing (for example) losses on a hedged item to be offset against gains on a hedging instrument.

Generally only assets, liabilities etc that involve external parties can be designated as hedged items. The foreign currency risk of an intragroup monetary item (eg payable/receivable between two subsidiaries) may qualify as a hedged item in the group financial statements if it results in an exposure to foreign exchange rate gains or losses that are not fully eliminated on consolidation. This can happen (per IAS 21) when the transaction is between entities with different functional currencies.

In addition, the foreign currency risk of a highly probable group transaction may qualify as a hedged item if it is in a currency other than the functional currency of the entity and the foreign currency risk will affect profit or loss.

## 6.2 Conditions for hedge accounting

Before a hedging relationship qualifies for hedge accounting, **all** of the following **conditions** must be met.

- (a) The hedging relationship must be **designated at its inception as a hedge** based on the entity's risk management objective and strategy. There must be formal documentation (including identification of the hedged item, the hedging instrument, the nature of the risk that is to be hedged and how the entity will assess the hedging instrument's effectiveness in offsetting the exposure to changes in the hedged item's fair value or cash flows attributable to the hedged risk).
- (b) The hedge is expected to be **highly effective** in achieving offsetting changes in fair value or cash flows attributable to the hedged risk. This means that the ratio of the gain or loss on the hedging instrument compared to the loss or gain on item being hedged is within the ratio 80% to 125%. (*Note: the hedge need not necessarily be fully effective.*)
- (c) For **cash flow hedges**, a **forecast transaction** that is the subject of the hedge must be **highly probable** and must present an exposure to variations in cash flows that could ultimately affect profit or loss.
- (d) The effectiveness of the hedge can be **measured reliably**.
- (e) The hedge is **assessed** on an ongoing basis (annually) and has been **effective during the reporting period**.

## 6.3 Example: Hedging

A company owns inventories of 20,000 gallons of oil which cost \$400,000 on 1 December 20X3.

In order to hedge the fluctuation in the market value of the oil the company signs a futures contract to deliver 20,000 gallons of oil on 31 March 20X4 at the futures price of \$22 per gallon.

The market price of oil on 31 December 20X3 is \$23 per gallon and the futures price for delivery on 31 March 20X4 is \$24 per gallon.

*Required*

Explain the impact of the transactions on the financial statements of the company:

- (a) Without hedge accounting
- (b) With hedge accounting.

### Solution

The futures contract was intended to protect the company from a fall in oil prices (which would have reduced the profit when the oil was eventually sold). However, oil prices have actually risen, so that the company has made a loss on the contract.

#### Without hedge accounting:

The futures contract is a derivative and therefore must be remeasured to fair value under IAS 39. The loss on the futures contract is recognised in profit or loss:

|        |  |          |          |
|--------|--|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | Profit or loss ( $20,000 \times 24 - 22$ ) | \$40,000 |          |
| CREDIT | Financial liability                        |          | \$40,000 |

#### With hedge accounting:

The loss on the futures contract is recognised in the profit or loss as before.

The inventories are revalued to fair value:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
|   | \$            |
| Fair value at 31 December 20X3 ( $20,000 \times 23$ ) | 460,000       |
| Cost  | (400,000)     |
| Gain  | <u>60,000</u> |

The gain is also recognised in profit or loss:

|        |                |          |          |
|--------|----------------|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | Inventory      | \$60,000 |          |
| CREDIT | Profit or loss |          | \$60,000 |

The net effect on the profit or loss is a gain of \$20,000 compared with a loss of \$40,000 without hedging.

The **standard** identifies three types of **hedging relationship**.

## Key terms

**Fair value hedge:** a hedge of the exposure to changes in the fair value of a recognised asset or liability, or an identified portion of such an asset or liability, that is attributable to a particular risk and could affect profit or loss.

**Cash flow hedge:** a hedge of the exposure to variability in cash flows that

- (a) is attributable to a particular risk associated with a recognised asset or liability (such as all or some future interest payments on variable rate debt) or a highly probable forecast transaction (such as an anticipated purchase or sale), and that
- (b) could affect profit or loss.

**Hedge of a net investment in a foreign operation:** IAS 21 defines a net investment in a foreign operation as the amount of the reporting entity's interest in the net assets of that operation. (IAS 39)

The hedge in the example above is a **fair value hedge** (it hedges exposure to changes in the fair value of a recognised asset: the oil).

## 6.4 Accounting treatment

### 6.4.1 Fair value hedges

The **gain or loss** resulting from **re-measuring** the hedging instrument at fair value is **recognised in profit or loss**.

The gain or loss on the hedged item attributable to the **hedged risk** should **adjust the carrying amount** of the hedged item and be **recognised in profit or loss**.

### 6.4.2 Example: fair value hedge

On 1 July 20X6 Joules acquired 10,000 ounces of a material which it held in its inventory. This cost \$200 per ounce, so a total of \$2 million. Joules was concerned that the price of this inventory would fall, so on 1 July 20X6 he sold 10,000 ounces in the futures market for \$210 per ounce for delivery on 30 June 20X7. On 1 July 20X6 the conditions for hedge accounting were all met.

At 31 December 20X6, the end of Joules' reporting period, the fair value of the inventory was \$220 per ounce while the futures price for 30 June 20X7 delivery was \$227 per ounce. On 30 June 20X7 the trader sold the inventory and closed out the futures position at the then spot price of \$230 per ounce.

*Required*

Set out the accounting entries in respect of the above transactions.

### Solution

At 31 December 20X6 the increase in the fair value of the inventory was \$200,000 ( $10,000 \times (\$220 - \$200)$ ) and the increase in the forward contract liability was \$170,000 ( $10,000 \times (\$227 - \$210)$ ). Hedge effectiveness was 85% (170,000 as a % of 200,000), so hedge accounting was still permitted.

|   | Debit   | Credit  |
|---|---------|---------|
| 31 December 20X6  | \$      | \$      |
| Profit or loss  | 170,000 |         |
| Financial liability<br>(To record the loss on the forward contract) |         | 170,000 |

|  | <i>Debit</i> | <i>Credit</i> |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| Inventories  | 200,000      |               |
| Profit or loss   |              | 200,000       |
| (To record the increase in the fair value of the inventories)  |              |               |
| At 30 June 20X7 the increase in the fair value of the inventory was another \$100,000 ( $10,000 \times (\$230 - \$220)$ ) and the increase in the forward contract liability was another \$30,000 ( $10,000 \times (\$230 - \$227)$ ). |              |               |
|  | <i>Debit</i> | <i>Credit</i> |
|  | \$           | \$            |
| 30 June 20X7   |              |               |
| Profit or loss   | 30,000       |               |
| Financial liability  |              | 30,000        |
| (To record the loss on the forward contract)   |              |               |
| Inventories  | 100,000      |               |
| Profit or loss   |              | 100,000       |
| (To record the increase in the fair value of the inventories)  |              |               |
| Profit or loss   | 2,300,000    |               |
| Inventories  |              | 2,300,000     |
| (To record the inventories now sold)   |              |               |
| Cash   | 2,300,000    |               |
| Profit or loss – revenue   |              | 2,300,000     |
| (To record the revenue from the sale of inventories)   |              |               |
| Financial liability  | 200,000      |               |
| Cash   |              | 200,000       |
| (To record the settlement of the net balance due on closing the financial liability)   |              |               |

Note that because the fair value of the material rose, Joules made a profit of only £100,000 on the sale of inventories. Without the forward contract, the profit would have been £300,000 ( $2,300,000 - 2,000,000$ ). In the light of the rising fair value the trader might in practice have closed out the futures position earlier, rather than waiting until the settlement date.

### 6.4.3 Cash flow hedges

The portion of the gain or loss on the hedging instrument that is determined to be an **effective** hedge shall be **recognised directly in equity** through the statement of changes in equity.

The **ineffective portion** of the gain or loss on the hedging instrument should be **recognised in profit or loss**.

When a hedging transaction results in the recognition of an asset or liability, changes in the value of the hedging instrument recognised in equity either:

- Are adjusted against the carrying value of the asset or liability, or
- Affect the profit or loss at the same time as the hedged item (for example, through depreciation or sale).

### 6.4.4 Example: Cash flow hedge

Bets Co signs a contract on 1 November 20X1 to purchase an asset on 1 November 20X2 for €60,000,000. Bets reports in US\$ and hedges this transaction by entering into a forward contract to buy €60,000,000 on 1 November 20X2 at US\$1: €1.5.

Spot and forward exchange rates at the following dates are:

|          | <i>Spot</i>  | <i>Forward (for delivery on 1.11.X2)</i> |
|----------|--------------|--|
| 1.11.X1  | US\$1: €1.45 | US\$1: €1.5                              |
| 31.12.X1 | US\$1: €1.20 | US\$1: €1.24                             |
| 1.11.X2  | US\$1: €1.0  | US\$1: €1.0 (actual)                     |

### Required

Show the double entries relating to these transactions at 1 November 20X1, 31 December 20X1 and 1 November 20X2.

### Solution

#### Entries at 1 November 20X1

The value of the forward contract at inception is zero so no entries recorded (other than any transaction costs), but risk disclosures will be made.

The contractual commitment to buy the asset would be disclosed if material (IAS 16).

#### Entries at 31 December 20X1

Gain on forward contract:

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
|  | \$               |
| Value of contract at 31.12.X1 (€60,000,000/1.24) | 48,387,096       |
| Value of contract at 1.11.X1 (€60,000,000/1.5)   | 40,000,000       |
| Gain on contract                                 | <u>8,387,096</u> |

Compare to movement in value of asset (unrecognised):

Increase in \$ cost of asset

|                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| (€60,000,000/1.20 – €60,000,000/1.45) | \$8,620,690 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|

As this is higher, the hedge is deemed fully effective at this point:

|                                     |             |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| DEBIT Financial asset (Forward a/c) | \$8,387,096 |             |
| CREDIT Equity                       |             | \$8,387,096 |

#### Entries at 1 November 20X2

##### Additional gain on forward contract

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
|  | \$                |
| Value of contract at 1.11.X2 (€60,000,000/1.0)   | 60,000,000        |
| Value of contract at 31.12.X1 (€60,000,000/1.24) | 48,387,096        |
| Gain on contract                                 | <u>11,612,904</u> |

Compare to movement in value of asset (unrecognised):

Increase in \$ cost of asset

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| (€60,000,000/1.0 – €60,000,000/1.2) | \$10,000,000 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|

Therefore, the hedge is not fully effective during this period, but is still highly effective (and hence hedge accounting can be used):

\$10,000,000/ \$11,612,904 = 86% which is within the 80% – 125% bandings.

|                                     |              |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| DEBIT Financial asset (Forward a/c) | \$11,612,904 |              |
| CREDIT Equity                       |              | \$10,000,000 |
| CREDIT Profit or loss               |              | \$1,612,904  |

##### Purchase of asset at market price

|                               |              |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| DEBIT Asset (€60,000,000/1.0) | \$60,000,000 |              |
| CREDIT Cash                   |              | \$60,000,000 |

Settlement of forward contract

|                                      |              |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| DEBIT Cash                           | \$20,000,000 |              |
| CREDIT Financial asset (Forward a/c) |              | \$20,000,000 |

Realisation of gain on hedging instrument



The cumulative gain of \$18,387,096 recognised in equity:

- Is transferred to profit or loss as the asset is used, ie over the asset's useful life; or
- Adjusts the initial cost of the asset (reducing future depreciation).

## 6.5 ED Hedge accounting and draft IFRS

In October 2010, the IASB issued an Exposure Draft *Hedge accounting*. The proposed changes were mainly incorporated into a draft IFRS, issued in September 2012 (see Section 6.5.9).

The proposed amendments are intended to '**improve the ability of investors to understand risk management activities and to assess the amounts, timing and uncertainty of future cash flow**'. The proposals will replace the 'rule-based' requirements for hedge accounting currently in IAS 39, and align the accounting more closely with risk management activities of an entity.

This ED is Phase 3 of the IASB's project to replace IAS 39, the other phases being classification and measurement (see Sections 3 and 4) and amortised cost and impairment (see the ED in Section 4).

### 6.5.1 Why change the hedge accounting requirements?

- The IAS 39 provisions are not based on consistent principles.** The provisions are rules based, which lead to inconsistency and arbitrariness.
- Current rules do not provide sufficient information on risk management.** Increasingly users of financial statements have said that they wish to understand the risks that an entity faces, and the entity's strategy in managing those risks. Many believe that the IAS 39 requirements do not provide such an understanding.
- Current rules on hedging do not reflect risk management practice.** For example:
  - There are instances where hedge accounting cannot be applied to groups of items, whereas for risk management purposes, items are often hedged on a group basis.** In his article *Hedge Accounting* in the April 2011 edition of *Accounting and Business* magazine, P2 examiner Graham Holt gives the example of equities making up an index such as the FTSE 100. These have an apparent economic link, but under the IAS 39 rules they cannot be grouped together for hedging purposes, because they do not have similar risk characteristics.
  - IAS 39 does not allow components of non-financial items to be hedged but entities usually hedge components of such items. For instance, an entity may wish to hedge the oil price component of the jet fuel price exposure by entering into a forward contract for crude oil. Under the IAS 39 rules, the entity can only hedge the price of jet fuel itself or the foreign currency risk.
  - IAS 39 does not allow net positions to be hedged. However, companies often hedge net positions. For example, they may hedge a net foreign exchange position of \$60m that is made up of an asset of \$200m and a liability of \$140m.
- Current rules are confusing and complex.** For example, many users believe that the distinction in IAS 39 between cash flow hedges and fair value hedges is unnecessarily complex and confusing.
- Current rules give insufficient disclosures** in the financial statements about an entity's risk management activities.

To overcome these disadvantages, the ED proposes the following improvements.

### 6.5.2 A new model for hedge accounting

The ED proposes a new, **principles based model** for hedge accounting that aims to **align accounting with risk management activities**. This will combine the following.

- A management view**, that aims to use information produced internally for risk management purposes, and

- (b) An **accounting view** that seeks to address the risk management issue of the timing of recognition of gains and losses.

### 6.5.3 Eligibility for hedge accounting

IAS 39 permits hedge accounting only if a hedge is highly effective, both prospectively and retrospectively. IAS 39 regards a hedge as highly effective if the offset is within the range of 80 to 125%. This is a **purely quantitative test** and has been felt to be narrow and arbitrary.

The IASB proposes eliminating this test, believing that an objective-based assessment would enhance the link between hedge accounting and an entity's risk management activities. The proposed hedge effectiveness requirements are that a hedging relationship:

- (a) **Meets the objective of the hedge effectiveness assessment** (ie to ensure that the hedging relationship will produce an unbiased result and minimise expected hedge ineffectiveness), and
- (b) Is expected to achieve **other than accidental offsetting**.

Hedge effectiveness may be demonstrated qualitatively (perhaps for a simple hedge) or quantitatively (for a more complex hedge).

The ineffective portion of the hedge must still be reported in profit or loss for the year.

If the proposals come into force, it is likely that **more economically rational hedging strategies** will qualify for hedge accounting than under the current rules. Examples include:

- (a) **Components of non-financial items** may be hedged under the proposed rules. As a principle-based approach, the proposed requirements would look only **at whether a risk component can be identified and measured**, rather than determining what can be hedged **by type** of item. This would enable entities to apply hedge accounting that reflects their risk management activities.
- (b) **Net positions may be hedged**. This improves the link to risk management, as in real life entities often hedge net positions. It makes the hedging of groups of items more feasible.

### 6.5.4 Adjusting hedging relationships

As well as relaxing the hedge effectiveness requirements, the ED proposes that hedging relationships can be **adjusted** without necessarily stopping and potentially restarting hedge accounting.

### 6.5.5 Change in presentation of fair value hedging

Under the ED proposals:

- (a) **The gain or loss on the hedging instrument and the hedged item** should be **recognised in other comprehensive income**.
- (b) The **ineffective portion** of the gain or loss is transferred to **profit or loss**.
- (c) **The gain or loss** on the hedged item is presented as a **separate line item** in the statement of financial position, so the hedged item is not adjusted for changes in the fair value attributed to the hedged risk.

### 6.5.6 Premium paid for options

Under IAS 39 the part of an option that reflects **time value** is treated as if it was a derivative held for trading purposes. This creates volatility in profit or loss for the year. It does not reflect the way risk managers see it: when hedging, risk managers view the time value premium paid as a cost of hedging rather than a speculative trading position.

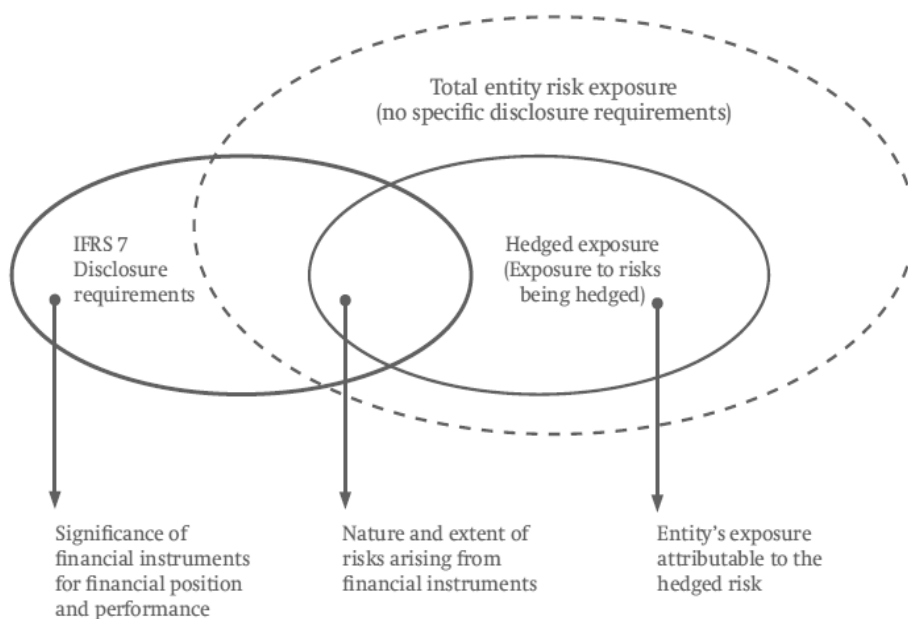
Under the proposals in the ED, **the time value premium should be treated as a cost of hedging**, which will be presented in other comprehensive income. This is intended to decrease inappropriate volatility in profit or loss and it should be more consistent with risk management practices.

### 6.5.7 New improved disclosures

The IAS 39 rules on hedge accounting focus on entities' **hedging instruments**. The ED proposes a **comprehensive set of new disclosures** that focus on:

- The risks being hedged
- How those risks are managed
- How the entity's hedging activities may affect the amount, timing and uncertainty of its future cash flows
- The effect of hedging the risks on the primary financial statements

The following diagram, taken from the snapshot overview of the ED, shows how the hedging disclosures fit into the overall disclosure framework for financial instruments.



The disclosures may be presented in a single note or separate section in the financial statements. Information disclosed elsewhere need not be duplicated, provided it is cross referenced.

### 6.5.8 Criticisms and problems

The following concerns have been identified in connection with the proposals by Ernst & Young (*IFRS Outlook, March/April 2011*):

- Some of the limitations proposed by the ED mean that entities will not be able to fully reflect their risk management strategies for certain economic hedges (such as those involving the use of internal derivatives).
- The **terminology has been criticised** as being either too precise or not precise enough, specifically the requirement that hedge relationships must be designated so that they produce an 'unbiased' result and 'minimise' ineffectiveness.
- The requirement to **adjust (re-balance) hedges** may be **applied inconsistently**.
- With regard to the extension of the ability to hedge risk components to **non-financial items**, it is felt that there is **insufficient guidance** on how risk components should be identified when they are not contractually specified.
- The proposals **on fair value hedges may be too complex** to implement. The primary financial statements would be cluttered and the presentation would result in the separate recognition of assets and liabilities that would not comply with the *Conceptual Framework*.

In his article *Hedge Accounting* for the April edition of *Accounting and Business* magazine, the P2 examiner Graham Holt also made the following points.

- (a) The ED has been written on the assumption that risk management activities are undertaken at a micro level, when in fact risk management is usually applied at a **higher macro or portfolio level**.
- (b) The separate **transfer** of hedging ineffectiveness **from other comprehensive income to profit or loss may present some operational challenges**.
- (c) The ED introduces **new concepts and definitions** that may not be well understood.
- (d) **Macro hedging is not addressed** in the ED, and it might make sense for the IASB to develop a model for macro hedging before finalising the standard on hedge accounting in general.
- (e) The **piecemeal approach** to replacing IAS 39 may cause inconsistencies and operational difficulties.

### 6.5.9 Draft IFRS

On 7 September 2012, the IASB published a draft of the forthcoming IFRS on general hedge accounting to be included in IFRS 9 *Financial instruments*. It follows the 2010 Exposure Draft on hedge accounting described above and is expected to be the last stage before the proposals are finalised.

The main change in the Draft IFRS resulting from feedback on the Exposure Draft relates to **accounting for hedges of credit risk using credit derivatives**. The Draft IFRS would permit certain credit exposures to be designated at fair value through profit or loss if a credit derivative that is measured at fair value through profit or loss is used to manage the credit risk of all, or a part of, the exposure on a fair value basis.

A credit exposure may be a financial instrument within or outside the scope of IFRS 9, for example, loan commitments, that is managed for credit risk. The designation would be permitted if both of the following apply.

- (a) The name of the credit exposure matches the reference entity of the credit derivative.
- (b) The seniority of the financial instrument matches that of the instruments that can be delivered in accordance with the credit derivative.

## 6.6 Section summary

- **Hedge accounting** means designating one or more instruments so that their change in fair value is **offset** by the change in fair value or cash flows of another item.
- **Hedge accounting** is permitted in certain circumstances, provided the hedging relationship is **clearly defined, measurable** and actually **effective**.
- There are three types of hedge: **fair value** hedge; **cash flow** hedge; hedge of a **net investment in a foreign operation**.
- The accounting treatment of a hedge **depends on its type**.
- The current hedging rules have been found to be **confusing and unrealistic when it comes to reflecting and disclosing an entity's risk management activities**. As Phase 3 of the project to replace IAS 39, an **Exposure Draft has been issued with proposals to remedy this**.

## 7 Disclosure of financial instruments

### Exam focus point

Skim through for background only – disclosures will not be tested in detail.

### FAST FORWARD

**IFRS 7** specifies the **disclosures** required for financial instruments. The standard requires qualitative and quantitative disclosures about exposure to risks arising from financial instruments and specifies minimum disclosures about credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk.

The IASB maintains that users of financial instruments need information about an entity's exposures to risks and how those risks are managed, as this information can **influence a user's assessment of the**

**financial position and financial performance of an entity** or of the amount, timing and uncertainty of its **future cash flows**.

There have been new techniques and approaches to measuring risk management, which highlighted the need for guidance.

Accordingly, IFRS 7 *Financial instruments: Disclosures* was issued in 2005. The standard revises, enhances and replaces the disclosures in IAS 30 and IAS 32. The presentation aspects of IAS 32 are retained, and IAS 32 has been renamed *Financial instruments: Presentation*.

## 7.1 General requirements

The extent of disclosure required depends on the extent of the entity's use of financial instruments and of its exposure to risk. It **adds to the requirements previously in IAS 32** by requiring:

- (a) Enhanced statement of financial position and statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income disclosures
- (b) Disclosures about an allowance account when one is used to reduce the carrying amount of impaired financial instruments.

The standard requires **qualitative and quantitative disclosures about exposure to risks** arising from financial instruments, and specifies minimum disclosures about **credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk**.

## 7.2 Objective

The objective of the IFRS is to require entities to provide disclosures in their financial statements that enable users to evaluate:

- (a) The significance of financial instruments for the entity's financial position and performance
- (b) The nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments to which the entity is exposed during the period and at the reporting date, and how the entity manages those risks.

The principles in IFRS 7 complement the principles for recognising, measuring and presenting financial assets and financial liabilities in IAS 32 *Financial instruments: Presentation* and IAS 39 *Financial instruments: Recognition and measurement*.

## 7.3 Classes of financial instruments and levels of disclosure

The entity must group financial instruments into classes **appropriate to the nature of the information disclosed**. An entity must decide in the light of its circumstances how much detail it provides. Sufficient information must be provided to permit reconciliation to the line items presented in the statement of financial position.

### 7.3.1 Statement of financial position

The following must be disclosed.

- (a) **Carrying amount** of financial assets and liabilities by IAS 39 category.
- (b) **Reason for any reclassification** between fair value and amortised cost (and *vice versa*).
- (c) **Details** of the assets and exposure to risk where the entity has made a **transfer** such that part or all of the financial assets do not qualify for derecognition.
- (d) The **carrying amount** of financial assets the entity has **pledged as collateral** for liabilities or contingent liabilities and the associated terms and conditions.
- (e) When financial assets are impaired by credit losses and the entity records the impairment in a separate account (eg an **allowance account** used to record individual impairments or a similar account used to record a collective impairment of assets) rather than directly reducing the carrying amount of the asset, it must disclose a **reconciliation** of changes in that account during the period for each class of financial assets.

- (f) The **existence of multiple embedded derivatives**, where compound instruments contain these.
- (g) Defaults and breaches.

### 7.3.2 Statement of comprehensive income

The entity must disclose the following **items of income, expense, gains or losses**, either on the face of the financial statements or in the notes.

- (a) Net gains/losses by IAS 39 category (broken down as appropriate: eg interest, fair value changes, dividend income)
- (b) Interest income/expense
- (c) Impairments losses by class of financial asset

### 7.3.3 Other disclosures

Entities must disclose in the summary of **significant accounting policies** the measurement basis used in preparing the financial statements and the other accounting policies that are relevant to an understanding of the financial statements.

#### Hedge accounting

Disclosures must be made relating to **hedge accounting**, as follows:

- (a) Description of hedge
- (b) Description of financial instruments designated as **hedging instruments** and their fair value at the reporting date
- (c) The **nature of the risks** being hedged
- (d) For **cash flow hedges**, periods **when the cash flows will occur** and when will affect profit or loss
- (e) For fair value hedges, gains or losses on the hedging instrument and the hedged item
- (f) The **ineffectiveness recognised in profit or loss** arising from cash flow hedges and net investments in foreign operations.

#### Fair value

IFRS 7 retains the following general requirements in relation to the disclosure of fair value for those financial instruments **measured at amortised cost**:

- (a) For each class of financial assets and financial liabilities an entity should disclose the **fair value of that class of assets and liabilities** in a way that permits it to be compared with its carrying amount.
- (b) In disclosing fair values, an entity should group financial assets and financial liabilities into classes, but should **offset them only to the extent that their carrying amounts are offset in the statement of financial position**.

It also states that **disclosure of fair value is not required** where:

- Carrying amount is a reasonable approximation of fair value
- For investments in equity instruments that do not have a quoted market price in an active market for an identical instrument, or derivatives linked to such equity instruments

**IFRS 13** (see Section 8) provides disclosure requirements in respect of the fair value of financial instruments **measured at fair values**. It requires that information is disclosed to help users assess:

- (a) For assets and liabilities measured at **fair value after initial recognition, the valuation techniques and inputs used to develop those measurements**.
- (b) For **recurring fair value measurements** (ie those measured at each period end) using significant unobservable (Level 3) inputs, the **effect of the measurements on profit or loss** or other comprehensive income for the period.

In order to achieve this, the following should be **disclosed as a minimum** for each class of financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value (asterisked disclosures are also required for financial assets and liabilities measured at amortised cost but for which fair value is disclosed).

- (c) The fair value measurement at the end of the period.
- (d) The level of the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurements are categorised in their entirety.
- (e) For assets and liabilities measured at fair value at each reporting date (recurring fair value measurements), the amounts of any transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy and reasons for the transfers.
- (f) For fair value measurements categorised within Levels 2 and 3 of the hierarchy, a description of the valuation techniques and inputs used in the fair value measurement, plus details of any changes in valuation techniques.
- (g) For recurring fair value measurements categorised within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy:
  - (i) A reconciliation from the opening to closing balances.
  - (ii) The amount of unrealised gains or losses recognised in profit or loss in the period and the line item in which they are recognised.
  - (iii) A narrative description of the sensitivity of the fair value measurement to changes in unobservable inputs.
- (h) For recurring and non-recurring fair value measurements categorised within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy, a description of the valuation processes used by the entity.

An entity should also disclose its policy for determining when transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy are deemed to have occurred.

### 7.3.4 Example: Fair value disclosures

For assets and liabilities measured at fair value at the end of the reporting period, the IFRS requires quantitative disclosures about the fair value measurements for each class of assets and liabilities. An entity might disclose the following for assets:

| Description                             | \$'000<br>31.12.X9 | Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period using |                |                |
|---|--------------------|--|----------------|----------------|
|   |                    | Level 1 inputs   | Level 2 inputs | Level 3 inputs |
| Trading equity securities               | 45                 | 45   |                |                |
| Non-trading equity securities           | 32                 |  |                | 32             |
| Corporate securities                    | 90                 | 9  | 81             |                |
| Derivatives – interest rate contracts   | 78                 |  | 78             |                |
| Total recurring fair value measurements | 245                | 54   | 159            | 32             |

## 7.4 Nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments

In undertaking transactions in financial instruments, an entity may assume or transfer to another party one or more of **different types of financial risk** as defined below. The disclosures required by the standard

show the extent to which an entity is exposed to these different types of risk, relating to both recognised and unrecognised financial instruments.

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Credit risk</b>        | The risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.   |
| <b>Currency risk</b>      | The risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.   |
| <b>Interest rate risk</b> | The risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.  |
| <b>Liquidity risk</b>     | The risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities.  |
| <b>Loans payable</b>      | Loans payable are financial liabilities, other than short-term trade payables on normal credit terms.  |
| <b>Market risk</b>        | The risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: <b>currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk.</b>  |
| <b>Other price risk</b>   | The risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from <b>interest rate risk</b> or <b>currency risk</b> ), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market. |
| <b>Past due</b>           | A financial asset is past due when a counterparty has failed to make a payment when contractually due.   |

#### 7.4.1 Qualitative disclosures

For each type of risk arising from financial instruments, an entity must disclose:

- The **exposures to risk** and how they arise
- Its objectives, policies and processes for managing the risk and the methods used to measure the risk
- Any **changes** in (a) or (b) from the previous period.

#### 7.4.2 Quantitative disclosures

For each financial instrument risk, **summary quantitative data** about risk exposure must be disclosed. This should be based on the information provided internally to key management personnel. More information should be provided if this is unrepresentative.

Information about **credit risk** must be disclosed by class of financial instrument:

- Maximum exposure at the year end
- Any collateral pledged as security
- In respect of the amount disclosed in (b), a description of collateral held as security and other credit enhancements
- Information about the credit quality of financial assets that are neither **past due** nor impaired
- Financial assets that are past due or impaired, giving an age analysis and a description of collateral held by the entity as security
- Collateral and other credit enhancements obtained, including the nature and carrying amount of the assets and policy for disposing of assets not readily convertible into cash.

For **liquidity risk** entities must disclose:

- A maturity analysis of financial liabilities
- A description of the way risk is managed



Disclosures required in connection with **market risk** are:

- (a) Sensitivity analysis, showing the effects on profit or loss of changes in each market risk
- (b) If the sensitivity analysis reflects interdependencies between risk variables, such as interest rates and exchange rates the method, **assumptions and limitations** must be disclosed.

## 7.5 Capital disclosures

Certain disclosures about **capital** are required. An entity's capital does not relate solely to financial instruments, but has more general relevance. Accordingly, those disclosures are included in IAS 1, rather than in IFRS 7.

# 8 Fair value measurement

6/12

### FAST FORWARD

**IFRS 13** *Fair value measurement* gives extensive guidance on how the fair value of assets and liabilities should be established.

In May 2011 the IASB published IFRS 13 *Fair value measurement*. The project arose as a result of the Memorandum of Understanding between the IASB and FASB (2006) reaffirming their commitment to the convergence of IFRSs and US GAAP. With the publication of IFRS 13, IFRS and US GAAP now have the same definition of fair value and the measurement and disclosure requirements are now aligned

## 8.1 Objective

IFRS 13 sets out to:

- (a) Define fair value
- (b) Set out in a single IFRS a framework for measuring fair value
- (c) Require disclosure about fair value measurements

## 8.2 Definitions

IFRS 13 defines fair value as '**the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date**'.

The previous definition used in IFRS was 'the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction'.

The price which would be received to sell the asset or paid to transfer (not settle) the liability is described as the 'exit price' and this is the definition used in US GAAP. Although the concept of the 'arm's length transaction' has now gone, the market-based current exit price retains the notion of an exchange between unrelated, knowledgeable and willing parties.

## 8.3 Scope

IFRS 13 applies when another IFRS requires or permits fair value measurements or disclosures. The measurement and disclosure requirements do not apply in the case of:

- (a) Share-based payment transactions within the scope of IFRS 2 *Share-based payment*
- (b) Leasing transactions within the scope of IAS 17 *Leases*; and
- (c) Net realisable value as in IAS 2 *Inventories* or value in use as in IAS 36 *Impairment of assets*.

Disclosures are not required for:

- (a) Plan assets measured at fair value in accordance with IAS 19 *Employee benefits*
- (b) Plan investments measured at fair value in accordance with IAS 26 *Accounting and reporting by retirement benefit plans*; and

- (c) Assets for which the recoverable amount is fair value less disposal costs under IAS 36  
*Impairment of assets*

## 8.4 Measurement

Fair value is a market-based measurement, not an entity-specific measurement. It focuses on assets and liabilities and on exit (selling) prices. It also takes into account market conditions at the measurement date. In other words, it looks at the amount for which the holder of an asset could sell it and the amount which the holder of a liability would have to pay to transfer it. It can also be used to value an entity's own equity instruments.

Because it is a market-based measurement, fair value is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset, taking into account any relevant characteristics of the asset.

It is assumed that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

- (a) In the *principal market* for the asset or liability; or
- (b) In the absence of a principle market, in the *most advantageous* market for the asset or liability.

The principal market is the market which is the most liquid (has the greatest volume and level of activity) for that asset or liability. In most cases the principal market and the most advantageous market will be the same.

IFRS 13 acknowledges that when market activity declines an entity must use a valuation technique to measure fair value. In this case the emphasis must be on whether a transaction price is based on an **orderly transaction**, rather than a forced sale.

Fair value is **not adjusted for transaction costs**. Under IFRS 13, these are **not a feature of the asset or liability**, but may be taken into account when **determining the most advantageous market**.

Fair value measurements are based on an asset or a liability's **unit of account**, which is specified by each IFRS where a fair value measurement is required. For most assets and liabilities, the unit of account is the individual asset or liability, but in some instances may be a group of assets or liabilities.

### 8.4.1 Example: unit of account

A premium or discount on a large holding of the same shares (because the market's normal daily trading volume is not sufficient to absorb the quantity held by the entity) is not considered when measuring fair value: the quoted price per share in an active market is used.

However, a control premium is considered when measuring the fair value of a controlling interest, because the unit of account is the controlling interest. Similarly, any non-controlling interest discount is considered where measuring a non-controlling interest.

### 8.4.2 Example: principal or most advantageous market

An asset is sold in two active markets, Market X and Market Y, at \$58 and \$57, respectively. Valor Co does business in both markets and can access the price in those markets for the asset at the measurement date as follows.

|   | Market X  | Market Y  |
|---|-----------|-----------|
|   | \$        | \$        |
| Price   | 58        | 57        |
| Transaction costs                                       | (4)       | (3)       |
| Transport costs (to transport the asset to that market) | (4)       | (2)       |
|   | <u>50</u> | <u>52</u> |

Remember that fair value is not adjusted for transaction costs. Under IFRS 13, these are not a feature of the asset or liability, but may be taken into account when determining the most advantageous market.

If Market X is the principal market for the asset (ie the market with the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset), the fair value of the asset would be \$54, measured as the price that would be received in that market (\$58) less transport costs (\$4) and ignoring transaction costs.

If neither Market X nor Market Y is the principal market for the asset, Valor must measure the fair value of the asset using the price in the most advantageous market. The most advantageous market is the market that maximises the amount that would be received to sell the asset, after taking into account both transaction costs and transport costs (ie the net amount that would be received in the respective markets).

The maximum net amount (after deducting both transaction and transport costs) is obtainable in Market Y (\$52, as opposed to \$50). But this is not the fair value of the asset. The fair value of the asset is obtained by deducting transport costs but not transaction costs from the price received for the asset in Market Y: \$57 less \$2 = \$55.

### 8.4.3 Non-financial assets

For **non-financial assets** the fair value measurement looks at the use to which the asset can be put. It takes into account the ability of a market participant to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its **highest and best** use.

## 8.5 Valuation techniques

IFRS 13 states that valuation techniques must be those which are appropriate and for which sufficient data are available. Entities should maximise the use of relevant **observable inputs** and minimise the use of **unobservable inputs**.

The standard establishes a three-level hierarchy for the inputs that valuation techniques use to measure fair value:

- Level 1* Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the reporting entity can access at the measurement date
- Level 2* Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, eg quoted prices for similar assets in active markets or for identical or similar assets in non active markets or use of quoted interest rates for valuation purposes
- Level 3* Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability, ie using the entity's own assumptions about market exit value.

### 8.5.1 Valuation approaches

The IFRS identifies **three valuation approaches**.

- (a) **Income approach.** Valuation techniques that convert future amounts (eg cash flows or income and expenses) to a single current (ie discounted) amount. The fair value measurement is determined on the basis of the value indicated by current market expectations about those future amounts.
- (b) **Market approach.** A valuation technique that uses prices and other relevant information generated by market transactions involving identical or comparable (ie similar) assets, liabilities or a group of assets and liabilities, such as a business.
- (c) **Cost approach.** A valuation technique that reflects the amount that would be required currently to replace the service capacity of an asset (often referred to as current replacement cost).

Entities may use more than one valuation technique to measure fair value in a given situation. A change of valuation technique is considered to be a change of accounting estimate in accordance with IAS 8, and must be disclosed in the financial statements.

### 8.5.2 Examples of inputs used to measure fair value

|         | Asset or liability  | Input   |
|---------|---|---|
| Level 1 | Equity shares in a listed company                         | Unadjusted quoted prices in an active market  |
| Level 2 | Licencing arrangement arising from a business combination | Royalty rate in the contract with the unrelated party at inception of the arrangement   |
|         | Cash generating unit                                      | Valuation multiple (eg a multiple of earnings or revenue or a similar performance measure) derived from observable market data, eg from prices in observed transactions involving comparable businesses |
|         | Finished goods inventory at a retail outlet               | Price to customers adjusted for differences between the condition and location of the inventory item and the comparable (ie similar) inventory items  |
|         | Building held and used                                    | Price per square metre for the derived from observable market data, eg prices in observed transactions involving comparable buildings in similar locations  |
| Level 3 | Cash generating unit                                      | Financial forecast (eg of cash flows or profit or loss) developed using the entity's own data   |
|         | Three-year option on exchange-traded shares               | Historical volatility, ie the volatility for the shares derived from the shares' historical prices  |
|         |   | Adjustment to a mid-market consensus (non-binding) price for the swap developed using data not directly observable or otherwise corroborated by observable market data                                  |

## 8.6 Measuring liabilities

Fair value measurement of a liability assumes that that liability is transferred at the measurement date to a market participant, who is then obliged to fulfill the obligation. The obligation is not settled or otherwise extinguished on the measurement date.

### 8.6.1 Entity's own credit risk

The fair value of a liability reflects the effect of **non-performance risk**, which includes but is not limited to **the entity's own credit risk**. This may be different for different types of liabilities.

### 8.6.2 Example: Entity's own credit risk

Black Co and Blue Co both enter into a legal obligation to pay \$20,000 cash to Green Go in seven years.

Black Co has a top credit rating and can borrow at 4%. Blue Co's credit rating is lower and it can borrow at 8%.

Black Co will receive approximately \$15,200 in exchange for its promise. This is the present value of \$20,000 in seven years at 4%.

Blue Co will receive approximately \$11,660 in exchange for its promise. This is the present value of \$20,000 in seven years at 8%.

## 8.7 IFRS 13 and business combinations

Fair value generally applies on a business combination. This topic is covered in [Chapter 12](#), together with some further examples.

## 8.8 Disclosure

An entity must disclose information that helps users of its financial statements assess both of the following:

- (a) For assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring or non-recurring basis, the valuation techniques and inputs used to develop those measurements.
- (b) For recurring fair value measurements using significant **unobservable inputs** (Level 3), the effect of the measurements on profit or loss or other comprehensive income for the period. Disclosure requirements will include:
  - (i) Reconciliation from opening to closing balances
  - (ii) Quantitative information regarding the inputs used
  - (iii) Valuation processes used by the entity
  - (iv) Sensitivity to changes in inputs

## 8.9 Was the project necessary?

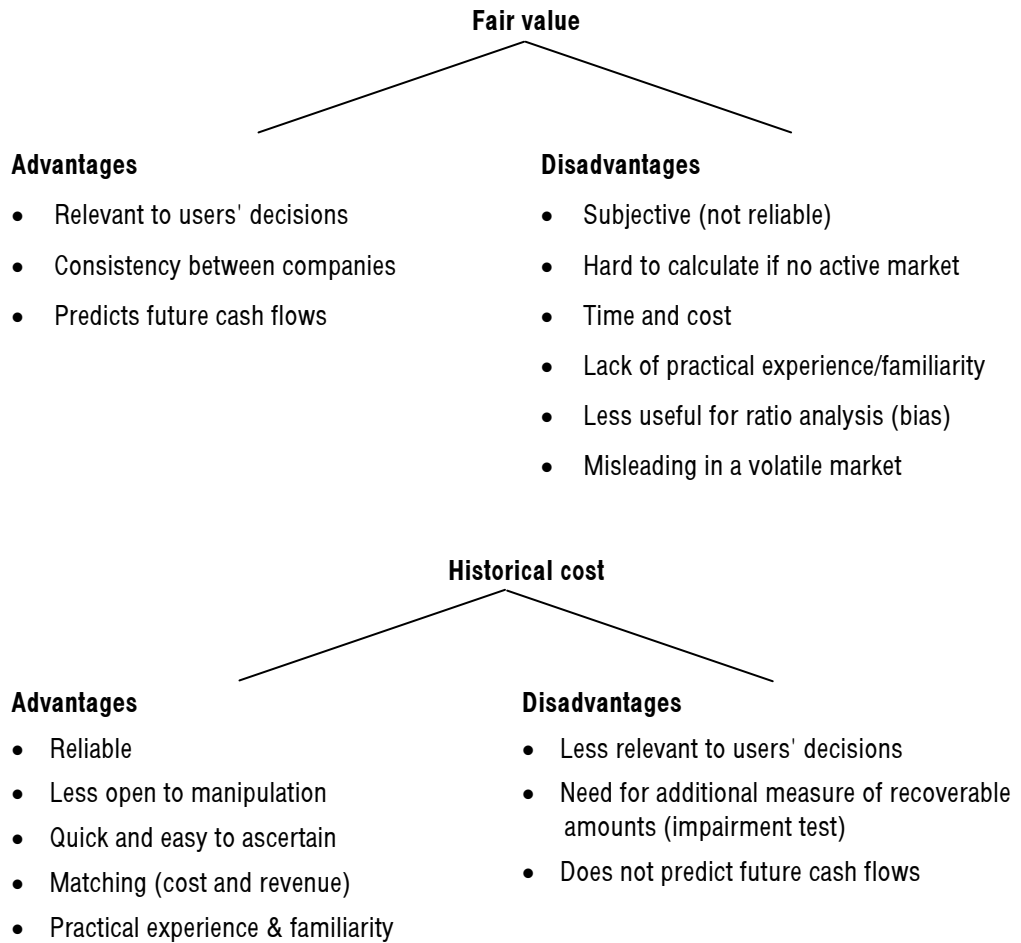
The IASB is already considering the matter of the measurement basis for assets and liabilities in financial reporting as part of its *Conceptual Framework* project. It could therefore be argued that it was not necessary to have a separate project on fair value. The *Conceptual Framework* might have been the more appropriate forum for discussing **when** fair value should be used **as well as how to define and measure it**.

However, it has been argued that a concise definition and clear measurement framework is needed because there is so much inconsistency in this area, and this may form the basis for discussions in the *Conceptual Framework* project.

The IASB has also pointed out that the global financial crisis has highlighted the need for:

- Clarifying how to measure fair value when the market for an asset becomes less active; and
- Improving the transparency of fair value measurements through disclosures about measurement uncertainty.

### 8.9.1 Advantages and disadvantages of fair value (v historical cost)



## Chapter Roundup

- Financial instruments can be very complex, particularly **derivative instruments**, although **primary instruments** are more straightforward.
- The important definitions to learn are:
  - **Financial asset**
  - **Financial liability**
  - **Equity instrument**
- Financial instruments must be classified as **liabilities** or **equity** according to their **substance**.
- The critical feature of a financial liability is the **contractual obligation to deliver cash** or another financial asset.
- **Compound instruments** are split into **equity** and **liability** components and presented accordingly in the statement of financial position.
- **IFRS 9 *Financial instruments***, issued in November 2009 and updated in October 2010 **replaced parts of IAS 39, with respect to the recognition, derecognition, classification and measurement of financial assets and liabilities**. In general, the rules were simplified. This standard is a work in progress and will fully replace IAS 39 in 2015.
- Two **Exposure Drafts**, on **amortised cost and impairment**, and on **hedging**, continue the project.
- **Financial assets** should **initially be measured at cost = fair value**. **Subsequent measurement** of both financial assets and financial liabilities **depends on how the instrument is classified**: at amortised cost or fair value.
- **Transaction costs** increase this amount for financial assets classified as measured at amortised cost, or where an irrevocable election has been made to take all gains and losses through other comprehensive income and decrease this amount for financial liabilities classified as measured at amortised cost.
- Financial assets should initially be measured at **cost = fair value**.

**Transaction costs increase this amount for financial assets** classified as measured at amortised cost, or where an irrevocable election has been made to take all gains and losses through other comprehensive income and **decrease this amount for financial liabilities** classified as measured at amortised cost.

**Subsequent measurement** of both financial assets and financial liabilities depends on how the instrument is classified: at amortised cost or fair value.
- An **embedded derivative** is a derivative instrument that is combined with a non-derivative **host contract** to form a single hybrid instrument.
- **Hedging** is allowed in certain strictly defined circumstances.
- **IFRS 7** specifies the **disclosures** required for financial instruments. The standard requires quantitative and qualitative disclosures about exposure to risks arising from financial instruments and specifies minimum disclosures about credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk.
- **IFRS 13 *Fair value measurement*** gives extensive guidance on how the fair value of assets and liabilities should be established.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 Which issues are dealt with by IAS 32?
- 2 What items are not financial instruments according to IAS 32?
- 3 What is the critical feature used to identify a financial liability?
- 4 How should compound instruments be presented in the statement of financial position?
- 5 When should a financial asset be de-recognised?
- 6 How are financial instruments initially measured?
- 7 How are financial assets measured under IFRS 9, subsequent to initial recognition?
- 8 How are embedded derivatives treated under IFRS 9?
- 9 What is hedging?
- 10 Name the three types of hedging relationship identified by IAS 39.
- 11 Fill in the blanks:  
In applying IFRS 13 *Fair value measurement*, entities should maximise the use of \_\_\_\_\_ and minimise the use of \_\_\_\_\_.



## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 Classification and disclosure
- 2 Physical assets; prepaid expenses; non-contractual assets or liabilities; contractual rights not involving transfer of assets
- 3 The contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial asset to the holder
- 4 By calculating the present value of the liability component and then deducting this from the instrument as a whole to leave a residual value for the equity component
- 5 An entity should derecognise a financial asset when:
  - (a) The contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or
  - (b) The entity transfers substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset to another party.
- 6 At cost = fair value
- 7 At amortised cost or at fair value.
- 8 Where the host contract is a financial asset within the scope of IFRS 9, the classification and measurement rules of the standard are applied to the entire hybrid contract. Where the host contract is not a financial asset within the scope of IFRS 9, the standard requires that an embedded derivative be separated from its host contract and accounted for as a derivative when certain conditions are met.
- 9 Hedging, for accounting purposes, means designating one or more hedging instruments so that their change in fair value is an offset, in whole or in part, to the change in fair value or cash flows of a hedged item.
- 10 Fair value hedge; cash flow hedge; hedge of a net investment in a foreign operation
- 11 Entities should maximise the use of relevant *observable inputs* and minimise the use of *unobservable inputs*.

Now try the questions below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level        | Marks | Time    |
|--------|--------------|-------|---------|
| Q9     | Examination  | 10    | 18 mins |
| Q10    | Introductory | n/a   | n/a     |
| Q11    | Examination  | 25    | 45 mins |



# 8

## Share-based payment

| Topic list                   | Syllabus reference |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 IFRS 2 Share-based payment | C10                |
| 2 Deferred tax implications  | C10                |

### Introduction

This chapter deals with IFRS 2 on share based payment, a controversial area.

## Study guide

|            |   | Intellectual level |
|------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>C10</b> | <b>Share-based payment</b>  |                    |
| (a)        | Apply and discuss the recognition and measurement criteria for share-based payment transactions | 3                  |
| (b)        | Account for modifications, cancellations and settlements of share-based payment transactions    | 2                  |

## Exam guide

This examiner is fond of testing share-based payment as part of a scenario question.



One of the competences you need to fulfil Objective 10 of the Practical Experience Requirement (PER) is to compile financial statements and accounts in line with appropriate standards and guidelines. You can apply the knowledge you obtain from this chapter, on share-based payment, to demonstrate this competence.

## 1 IFRS 2 Share-based payment Pilot paper, 12/08, 12/10, 6/12

### FAST FORWARD

**Share-based payment** transactions should be recognised in the financial statements. You need to understand and be able to advise on:

- Recognition
- Measurement
- Disclosure

of both equity settled and cash settled transactions.

### 1.1 Background

Transactions whereby entities purchase goods or services from other parties, such as suppliers and employees, by **issuing shares or share options** to those other parties are **increasingly common**. Share schemes are a common feature of director and executive remuneration and in some countries the authorities may offer tax incentives to encourage more companies to offer shares to employees. Companies whose shares or share options are regarded as a valuable 'currency' commonly use share-based payment to obtain employee and professional services.

The increasing use of share-based payment has raised questions about the accounting treatment of such transactions in company financial statements.

Share options are often granted to employees at an exercise price that is equal to or higher than the market price of the shares at the date the option is granted. Consequently, the options have no intrinsic value and so **no transaction is recorded in the financial statements**.

This leads to an **anomaly**: if a company pays its employees in cash, an expense is recognised in profit or loss, but if the payment is in share options, no expense is recognised.

#### 1.1.1 Arguments against recognition of share-based payment in the financial statements

There are a number of arguments against recognition. The IASB has considered and rejected the arguments below.

##### (a) No cost therefore no charge

There is no cost to the entity because the granting of shares or options does not require the entity to sacrifice cash or other assets. Therefore, a charge should not be recognised.

This argument is unsound because it ignores the fact that a transaction has occurred. The employees have provided valuable services to the entity in return for valuable shares or options.

(b) **Earnings per share is hit twice**

It is argued that the charge to profit or loss for the employee services consumed reduces the entity's earnings, while at the same time there is an increase in the number of shares issued.

However, the dual impact on earnings per share simply reflects the two economic events that have occurred.

- (i) The entity has issued shares or options, thus increasing the denominator of the earnings per share calculation.
- (ii) It has also consumed the resources it received for those shares or options, thus reducing the numerator.

(c) **Adverse economic consequences**

It could be argued that entities might be discouraged from introducing or continuing employee share plans if they were required to recognise them on the financial statements. However, if this happened, it might be because the requirement for entities to account properly for employee share plans had revealed the economic consequences of such plans.

A situation where entities are able to obtain and consume resources by issuing valuable shares or options without having to account for such transactions could be perceived as a distortion.

## 1.2 Objective and scope

IFRS 2 requires an entity to **reflect the effects of share-based payment transactions** in its profit or loss and financial position.

IFRS 2 applies to all share-based payment transactions. There are three types.

- (a) **Equity-settled share-based payment transactions**, in which the entity receives goods or services in exchange for equity instruments of the entity (including shares or share options)
- (b) **Cash-settled share-based payment transactions**, in which the entity receives goods or services in exchange for amounts of cash that are based on the price (or value) of the entity's shares or other equity instruments of the entity
- (c) Transactions in which the entity receives or acquires goods or services and either the entity or the supplier has a **choice** as to whether the entity settles the transaction in cash (or other assets) or by issuing equity instruments

IFRS 2 was amended in June 2009 to address situations in those parts of the world where, for public policy or other reasons, companies give their shares or rights to shares to individuals, organisations or groups that have not provided goods or services to the company. An example is the issue of shares to a charitable organisation for less than fair value, where the benefits are more intangible than usual goods or services.

### 1.2.1 Share-based payment among group entities

Payment for goods or services received by an entity within a group may be made in the form of granting equity instruments of the parent company, or equity instruments of another group company.

IFRS 2 states that this type of transaction qualifies as a share-based payment transaction within the scope of IFRS 2.

In 2009, the standard was amended to clarify that it applies to the following arrangements:

- (a) Where the entity's suppliers (including employees) will receive cash payments that are linked to the price of the equity instruments of the entity
- (b) Where the entity's suppliers (including employees) will receive cash payments that are linked to the price of the equity instruments of the entity's parent

Under either arrangement, the entity's parent had an obligation to make the required cash payments to the entity's suppliers. The entity itself did not have any obligation to make such payments. IFRS 2 applies to arrangements such as those described above even if the entity that receives goods or services from its suppliers has no obligation to make the required share-based cash payments.

### 1.2.2 Transactions outside the scope of IFRS 2

Certain transactions are **outside the scope** of the IFRS:

- (a) Transactions with employees and others in their capacity as a holder of equity instruments of the entity (for example, where an employee receives additional shares in a rights issue to all shareholders)
- (b) The issue of equity instruments in exchange for control of another entity in a business combination

#### Key terms

**Share-based payment transaction:** A transaction in which the entity receives goods or services as consideration for equity instruments of the entity (including shares or share options), or acquires goods or services by incurring liabilities to the supplier of those goods or services for amounts that are based on the price of the entity's shares or other equity instruments of the entity.

**Share-based payment arrangement.** An agreement between the entity and another party (including an employee) to enter into a share-based payment transaction, which thereby entitles the other party to receive cash or other assets of the entity for amounts that are based on the price of the entity's shares or other equity instruments of the entity, or to receive equity instruments of the entity, provided the specified vesting conditions, if any, are met.

**Equity instrument.** A contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of an entity after deducting all of its liabilities.

**Equity instrument granted.** The right (conditional or unconditional) to an equity instrument of the entity conferred by the entity on another party, under a share-based payment arrangement.

**Share option.** A contract that gives the holder the right, but not the obligation, to subscribe to the entity's shares at a fixed or determinable price for a specified period of time.

**Fair value.** The amount for which an asset could be exchanged, a liability settled, or an equity instrument granted could be exchanged, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction. (Note that this definition is different from that in IFRS 13 *Fair value measurement*, but the IFRS 2 definition applies.)

**Grant date.** The date at which the entity and another party (including an employee) agree to a share-based payment arrangement, being when the entity and the other party have a shared understanding of the terms and conditions of the arrangement. At grant date the entity confers on the other party (the counterparty) the right to cash, other assets, or equity instruments of the entity, provided the specified vesting conditions, if any, are met. If that agreement is subject to an approval process (for example, by shareholders), grant date is the date when that approval is obtained.

**Intrinsic value.** The difference between the fair value of the shares to which the counterparty has the (conditional or unconditional) right to subscribe or which it has the right to receive, and the price (if any) the other party is (or will be) required to pay for those shares. For example, a share option with an exercise price of \$15 on a share with a fair value of \$20, has an intrinsic value of \$5.

**Measurement date.** The date at which the fair value of the equity instruments granted is measured. For transactions with employees and others providing similar services, the measurement date is the grant date. For transactions with parties other than employees (and those providing similar services), the measurement date is the date the entity obtains the goods or the counterparty renders service.

**Vest.** To become an entitlement. Under a share-based payment arrangement, a counterparty's right to receive cash, other assets, or equity instruments of the entity vests upon satisfaction of any specified vesting conditions.

**Vesting conditions.** The conditions that must be satisfied for the counterparty to become entitled to receive cash, other assets or equity instruments of the entity, under a share-based payment arrangement. Vesting conditions include service conditions, which require the other party to complete a specified period

of service, and performance conditions, which require specified performance targets to be met (such as a specified increase in the entity's profit over a specified period of time).

**Vesting period.** The period during which all the specified vesting conditions of a share-based payment arrangement are to be satisfied.

## 1.3 Vesting conditions

IFRS 2 recognises two types of vesting conditions:

### Non-market based vesting conditions

These are conditions other than those relating to the market value of the entity's shares. Examples include vesting dependent on:

- The employee completing a minimum period of service (also referred to as a service condition)
- Achievement of minimum sales or earnings target
- Achievement of a specific increase in profit or earnings per share
- Successful completion of a flotation
- Completion of a particular project

### Market based vesting conditions

Market-based performance or vesting conditions are conditions linked to the market price of the shares in some way. Examples include vesting dependent on achieving:

- A minimum increase in the share price of the entity
- A minimum increase in shareholder return
- A specified target share price relative to an index of market prices

The definition of vesting conditions is:

- Restricted to service conditions and performance conditions, and
- Excludes other features such as a requirement for employees to make regular contributions into a savings scheme.

## 1.4 Recognition: the basic principle

An entity should **recognise goods or services received or acquired in a share-based payment transaction when it obtains the goods or as the services are received**. Goods or services received or acquired in a share-based payment transaction **should be recognised as expenses unless they qualify for recognition as assets**. For example, services are normally recognised as expenses (because they are normally rendered immediately), while goods are recognised as assets.

If the goods or services were received or acquired in an **equity-settled** share-based payment transaction the entity should recognise **a corresponding increase in equity** (reserves).

If the goods or services were received or acquired in a **cash-settled** share-based payment transaction the entity should recognise a **liability**.

## 1.5 Equity-settled share-based payment transactions

### 1.5.1 Measurement

The issue here is how to measure the 'cost' of the goods and services received and the equity instruments (eg the share options) granted in return.

The general principle in IFRS 2 is that when an entity recognises the goods or services received and the corresponding increase in equity, it should measure these at the **fair value of the goods or services**

**received.** Where the transaction is with **parties other than employees**, there is a rebuttable presumption that the fair value of the goods or services received can be estimated reliably.

If the fair value of the goods or services received cannot be measured reliably, the entity should measure their value by reference to the **fair value of the equity instruments granted**.

Where the transaction is with a party other than an employee fair value should be measured at the date the entity obtains the goods or the counterparty renders service.

Where shares, share options or other equity instruments are granted to **employees** as part of their remuneration package, it is not normally possible to measure directly the services received. For this reason, the entity should measure the fair value of the employee services received by reference to the **fair value of the equity instruments granted**. The fair value of those equity instruments should be measured at the **grant date**.

### 1.5.2 Determining the fair value of equity instruments granted

Where a transaction is measured by reference to the fair value of the equity instruments granted, fair value is based on **market prices** if available, taking into account the terms and conditions upon which those equity instruments were granted.

If market prices are not available, the entity should estimate the fair value of the equity instruments granted using a **valuation technique**. (These are beyond the scope of this exam.)

### 1.5.3 Transactions in which services are received

The issue here is **when** to recognise the transaction. When equity instruments are granted they may vest immediately, but often the counterparty has to meet specified conditions first. For example, an employee may have to complete a specified period of service. This means that the effect of the transaction normally has to be allocated over more than one accounting period.

If the equity instruments granted **vest immediately**, (ie the counterparty is not required to complete a specified period of service before becoming unconditionally entitled to the equity instruments) it is presumed that the services have already been received (in the absence of evidence to the contrary). The entity should **recognise the services received in full**, with a corresponding increase in equity, **on the grant date**.

If the equity instruments granted do not vest until the counterparty completes a specified period of service, the entity should account for those services **as they are rendered** by the counterparty during the vesting period. For example if an employee is granted share options on condition that he or she completes three years' service, then the services to be rendered by the employee as consideration for the share options will be received in the future, over that three-year vesting period.

The entity should recognise an amount for the goods or services received during the vesting period based on the **best available estimate** of the **number of equity instruments expected to vest**. It should **revise** that estimate if subsequent information indicates that the number of equity instruments expected to vest differs from previous estimates. On **vesting date**, the entity should revise the estimate to **equal the number of equity instruments that actually vest**.

Once the goods and services received and the corresponding increase in equity have been recognised, the entity should make no subsequent adjustment to total equity after vesting date.

## 1.6 Example: Equity-settled share-based payment transaction

On 1 January 20X1 an entity grants 100 share options to each of its 400 employees. Each grant is conditional upon the employee working for the entity until 31 December 20X3. The fair value of each share option is \$20.

During 20X1 20 employees leave and the entity estimates that 20% of the employees will leave during the three-year period.



During 20X2 a further 25 employees leave and the entity now estimates that 25% of its employees will leave during the three-year period.

During 20X3 a further 10 employees leave.

#### Required

Calculate the remuneration expense that will be recognised in respect of the share-based payment transaction for each of the three years ended 31 December 20X3.

### Solution

IFRS 2 requires the entity to recognise the remuneration expense, based on the fair value of the share options granted, as the services are received during the three-year vesting period.

In 20X1 and 20X2 the entity estimates the number of options expected to vest (by estimating the number of employees likely to leave) and bases the amount that it recognises for the year on this estimate.

In 20X3 it recognises an amount based on the number of options that actually vest. A total of 55 employees left during the three-year period and therefore 34,500 options  $((400 - 55) \times 100)$  vested.

The amount recognised as an expense for each of the three years is calculated as follows:

|      |   | <i>Cumulative<br/>expense<br/>at year-end</i> | <i>Expense for<br/>year</i> |
|------|---|---|-----------------------------|
|      |   | \$  | \$                          |
| 20X1 | $40,000 \times 80\% \times 20 \times 1/3$ | 213,333                                       | 213,333                     |
| 20X2 | $40,000 \times 75\% \times 20 \times 2/3$ | 400,000                                       | 186,667                     |
| 20X3 | $34,500 \times 20$                        | 690,000                                       | 290,000                     |



### Question

#### Share options

During its financial year ended 31 January 20X6, TSQ issued share options to several of its senior employees. The options vest immediately upon issue.

Which *one* of the following describes the accounting entry that is required to recognise the options?

- |   |  |                    |
|---|--|--------------------|
| A | DEBIT the statement of changes in equity | CREDIT liabilities |
| B | DEBIT the statement of changes in equity | CREDIT equity      |
| C | DEBIT profit or loss                     | CREDIT liabilities |
| D | DEBIT profit or loss                     | CREDIT equity      |

### Answer

- D Under IFRS 2 a charge must be made to the profit or loss.



### Question

#### Share based payment 1

On 1 January 20X3 an entity grants 250 share options to each of its 200 employees. The only condition attached to the grant is that the employees should continue to work for the entity until 31 December 20X6. Five employees leave during the year.

The market price of each option was \$12 at 1 January 20X3 and \$15 at 31 December 20X3.

#### Required

Show how this transaction will be reflected in the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 20X3.

## Answer

The remuneration expense for the year is based on the fair value of the options granted at the grant date (1 January 20X3). As five of the 200 employees left during the year it is reasonable to assume that 20 employees will leave during the four-year vesting period and that therefore 45,000 options ( $250 \times 180$ ) will actually vest.

Therefore, the entity recognises a remuneration expense of \$135,000 ( $45,000 \times 12 \times \frac{1}{4}$ ) in profit or loss and a corresponding increase in equity of the same amount.



## Question

### Share based payment 2

J&B granted 200 options on its \$1 ordinary shares to each of its 800 employees on 1 January 20X1. Each grant is conditional upon the employee being employed by J&B until 31 December 20X3.

J&B estimated at 1 January 20X1 that:

- (i) The fair value of each option was \$4 (before adjustment for the possibility of forfeiture).
- (ii) Approximately 50 employees would leave during 20X1, 40 during 20X2 and 30 during 20X3 thereby forfeiting their rights to receive the options. The departures were expected to be evenly spread within each year.

The exercise price of the options was \$1.50 and the market value of a J&B share on 1 January 20X1 was \$3. In the event, only 40 employees left during 20X1 (and the estimate of total departures was revised down to 95 at 31 December 20X1), 20 during 20X2 (and the estimate of total departures was revised to 70 at 31 December 20X2) and none during 20X3, spread evenly during each year.

### Required

The directors of J&B have asked you to illustrate how the scheme is accounted for under IFRS 2 *Share-based payment*.

- (a) Show the double entries for the charge to profit or loss for employee services over the three years and for the share issue, assuming all employees entitled to benefit from the scheme exercised their rights and the shares were issued on 31 December 20X3.
- (b) Explain how your solution would differ had J&B offered its employees cash based on the share value rather than share options.

## Answer

### (a) Accounting entries

|                         |   | \$      | \$      |
|-------------------------|---|---------|---------|
| 31.12.X1                |   |         |         |
| DEBIT                   | Profit or loss (Staff costs)                  | 188,000 |         |
| CREDIT                  | Equity reserve ((800 – 95) × 200 × \$4 × 1/3) |         | 188,000 |
| 31.12.X2                |   |         |         |
| DEBIT                   | Profit or loss (Staff costs) (W1)             | 201,333 |         |
| CREDIT                  | Equity reserve                                |         | 201,333 |
| 31.12.X3                |   |         |         |
| DEBIT                   | Profit or loss (Staff costs) (W2)             | 202,667 |         |
| CREDIT                  | Equity reserve                                |         | 202,667 |
| <i>Issue of shares:</i> |   |         |         |
| DEBIT                   | Cash (740 × 200 × \$1.50)                     | 222,000 |         |
| DEBIT                   | Equity reserve                                | 592,000 |         |
| CREDIT                  | Share capital (740 × 200 × \$1)               |         | 148,000 |
| CREDIT                  | Share premium (balancing figure)              |         | 666,000 |

### Workings

|   |   |                |
|---|---|----------------|
| 1 | Equity reserve at 31.12.X2                                      |                |
|   | Equity b/d  | \$ 188,000     |
|   | ∴ P/L charge  | 201,333        |
|   | Equity c/d $((800 - 70) \times 200 \times \$4 \times 2/3)$      | <u>389,333</u> |
| 2 | Equity reserve at 31.12.X3                                      |                |
|   | Equity b/d  | 389,333        |
|   | ∴ P/L charge  | 202,667        |
|   | Equity c/d $((800 - 40 - 20) \times 200 \times \$4 \times 3/3)$ | <u>592,000</u> |

#### (b) Cash-settled share-based payment

If J&B had offered cash payments based on the value of the shares at vesting date rather than options, in each of the three years an accrual would be shown in the statement of financial position representing the expected amount payable based on the following:

|  |   |                       |   |                                      |   |   |
|--|---|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| No of employees estimated at the year end to be entitled to rights at the vesting date | × | Number of rights each | × | Fair value of each right at year end | × | Cumulative proportion of vesting period elapsed |
|--|---|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|

The movement in the accrual would be charged to profit or loss representing further entitlements received during the year and adjustments to expectations accrued in previous years.

The accrual would continue to be adjusted (resulting in a profit or loss charge) for changes in the fair value of the right over the period between when the rights become fully vested and are subsequently exercised. It would then be reduced for cash payments as the rights are exercised.

## 1.7 Cancellation and reissuance

Where an entity has been through a capital restructuring or there has been a significant downturn in the equity market through external factors, an alternative to **repricing the share options** is to **cancel** them and issue new options based on revised terms. The end result is essentially the same as an entity modifying the original options and therefore should be recognised in the same way.

As well as the entity, two other parties may cancel an equity instrument:

- Cancellations by the counterparty (eg the employee)
- Cancellations by a third party (eg a shareholder)

Cancellations by the employee must be treated in the same way as cancellations by the employer, resulting in an **accelerated charge to profit or loss of the unamortised balance of the options granted**.

## 1.8 Cash-settled share-based payment transactions

Examples of this type of transaction include:

- Share appreciation rights** granted to employees: the employees become entitled to a future cash payment (rather than an equity instrument), based on the increase in the entity's share price from a specified level over a specified period of time, or
- An entity might grant to its employees a right to receive a future cash payment by granting to them a **right to shares that are redeemable**.

The basic principle is that the entity measures the goods or services acquired and the liability incurred at the **fair value of the liability**.

The entity should **remeasure** the fair value of the liability **at each reporting date** until the liability is settled **and at the date of settlement**. Any **changes** in fair value are recognised in **profit or loss** for the period.

The entity should recognise the services received, and a liability to pay for those services, **as the employees render service**. For example, if share appreciation rights do not vest until the employees have completed a specified period of service, the entity should recognise the services received and the related liability, over that period.

## 1.9 Example: Cash-settled share-based payment transaction

On 1 January 20X1 an entity grants 100 cash share appreciation rights (SARS) to each of its 500 employees, on condition that the employees continue to work for the entity until 31 December 20X3.

During 20X1 35 employees leave. The entity estimates that a further 60 will leave during 20X2 and 20X3.

During 20X2 40 employees leave and the entity estimates that a further 25 will leave during 20X3.

During 20X3 22 employees leave.

At 31 December 20X3 150 employees exercise their SARs. Another 140 employees exercise their SARs at 31 December 20X4 and the remaining 113 employees exercise their SARs at the end of 20X5.

The fair values of the SARs for each year in which a liability exists are shown below, together with the intrinsic values at the dates of exercise.

|      | <i>Fair value</i> | <i>Intrinsic value</i> |
|------|-------------------|------------------------|
|      | \$                | \$                     |
| 20X1 | 14.40             |                        |
| 20X2 | 15.50             |                        |
| 20X3 | 18.20             | 15.00                  |
| 20X4 | 21.40             | 20.00                  |
| 20X5 |                   | 25.00                  |

### Required

Calculate the amount to be recognised in the profit or loss for each of the five years ended 31 December 20X5 and the liability to be recognised in the statement of financial position at 31 December for each of the five years.

### Solution

For the three years to the vesting date of 31 December 20X3 the expense is based on the entity's estimate of the number of SARs that will actually vest (as for an equity-settled transaction). However, the fair value of the liability is **re-measured** at each year-end.

The intrinsic value of the SARs at the date of exercise is the amount of cash actually paid.

|  | <i>Liability<br/>at year-end</i> | <i>Expense for<br/>year</i> |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | \$                               | \$                          |
| 20X1 Expected to vest (500 – 95):<br>$405 \times 100 \times 14.40 \times 1/3$  | <u>194,400</u>                   | 194,400                     |
| 20X2 Expected to vest (500 – 100):<br>$400 \times 100 \times 15.50 \times 2/3$ | <u>413,333</u>                   | 218,933                     |
| 20X3 Exercised:<br>$150 \times 100 \times 15.00$                               |                                  | 225,000                     |
| Not yet exercised (500 – 97 – 150):<br>$253 \times 100 \times 18.20$           | <u>460,460</u>                   | <u>47,127</u>               |
|  |                                  | 272,127                     |
| 20X4 Exercised:<br>$140 \times 100 \times 20.00$                               |                                  | 280,000                     |
| Not yet exercised (253 – 140):<br>$113 \times 100 \times 21.40$                | <u>241,820</u>                   | <u>(218,640)</u>            |
|  |                                  | 61,360                      |

|                   | <i>Liability<br/>at year-end</i> |                  | <i>Expense for<br/>year</i> |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
|                   | \$                               | \$               | \$                          |
| 20X5 Exercised:   |                                  |                  |                             |
| 113 × 100 × 25.00 |                                  | 282,500          |                             |
|                   | <u>Nil</u>                       | <u>(241,820)</u> |                             |
|                   |                                  |                  | <u>40,680</u>               |
|                   |                                  |                  | <u>787,500</u>              |

## 1.10 Transactions which either the entity or the other party has a choice of settling in cash or by issuing equity instruments

If the entity has incurred a liability to settle in cash or other assets it should account for the transaction as a cash-settled share-based payment transaction

If no such liability has been incurred the entity should account for the transaction as an equity-settled share-based payment transaction.

## 1.11 Section summary

IFRS 2 requires entities to **recognise** the goods or services received as a result of **share based payment transactions**.

- Equity settled transactions: DEBIT Asset/Expense, CREDIT Equity
- Cash settled transactions: DEBIT Asset/Expense, CREDIT Liability
- Transactions are **recognised when goods/services are obtained/received** (usually over the performance period)
- Transactions are measured at fair value

## 2 Deferred tax implications

### FAST FORWARD

An entity may receive a tax deduction that is different in timing or amount from the related expense

### 2.1 Issue

An entity may receive a tax deduction that differs from related cumulative remuneration expense, and may arise in a later accounting period.

For example, an entity recognises an expense for share options granted under IFRS 2, but does not receive a tax deduction until the options are exercised and receives the tax deduction at the share price on the exercise date.

### 2.2 Measurement

The deferred tax asset temporary difference is measured as:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Carrying amount of share-based payment expense   | 0   |
| Less: tax base of share-based payment expense<br>(estimated amount tax authorities will permit as a deduction<br>in future periods, based on year end information) | (X) |
| Temporary difference   | (X) |
| Deferred tax asset at X%   | X   |

If the amount of the tax deduction (or estimated future tax deduction) exceeds the amount of the related cumulative remuneration expense, this indicates that the tax deduction relates also to an equity item.

The excess is therefore recognised directly in equity.

## 2.3 Example: Deferred tax implications of share-based payment

On 1 January 20X2, Bruce granted 5,000 share options to an employee vesting two years later on 31 December 20X3. The fair value of each option measured at the grant date was \$3.

Tax law in the jurisdiction in which the entity operates allows a tax deduction of the intrinsic value of the options on exercise. The intrinsic value of the share options was \$1.20 at 31 December 20X2 and \$3.40 at 31 December 20X3 on which date the options were exercised.

Assume a tax rate of 30%.

*Required*

Show the deferred tax accounting treatment of the above transaction at 31 December 20X2, 31 December 20X3 (before exercise), and on exercise.

### Solution

|   | 31/12/20X2 | 31/12/20X3<br>before<br>exercise |
|---|------------|----------------------------------|
| Carrying amount of share-based payment expense  | 0          | 0                                |
| Less: Tax base of share-based payment expense<br>(5,000 × \$1.2 × ½)/(5,000 × \$3.40) |            | (17,000)                         |
| Temporary difference  | (3,000)    | (17,000)                         |
| Deferred tax asset @ 30%  | 900        | 5,100                            |
| Deferred tax (Cr P/L) (5,100 – 900 – (Working) 600)                                   | 900        | 3,600                            |
| Deferred tax (Cr Equity) (Working)  | 0          | 600                              |

On exercise, the deferred tax asset is replaced by a current tax one. The double entry is:

|                             |       |            |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|
| DEBIT Deferred tax (I/S)    | 4,500 | } reversal |
| DEBIT Deferred tax (equity) | 600   |            |
| CREDIT Deferred tax asset   | 5,100 |            |
| DEBIT Current tax asset     | 5,100 |            |
| CREDIT Current tax (I/S)    | 4,500 |            |
| CREDIT Current tax (equity) | 600   |            |

*Working*

|   |         |          |
|---|---------|----------|
| Accounting expense recognised (5,000 × \$3 × ½)/(5,000 × \$3) | 7,500   | 15,000   |
| Tax deduction   | (3,000) | (17,000) |
| Excess temporary difference                                   | 0       | (2,000)  |
| Excess deferred tax asset to equity @ 30%                     | 0       | 600      |

## Chapter Roundup

- **Share-based payment** transactions should be recognised in the financial statements. You need to understand and be able to advise on:
  - Recognition
  - Measurement
  - Disclosureof both equity settled and cash settled transactions.
- An entity may receive a tax deduction that differs in timing or amount from the related expense.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 What is a cash-settled share based payment transaction?
- 2 What is the grant date?
- 3 If an entity has entered into an equity settled share-based payment transaction, what should it recognise in its financial statements?
- 4 Where an entity has granted share options to its employees in return for services, how is the transaction measured?

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 A transaction in which the entity receives goods or services in exchange for amounts of cash that are based on the price (or value) of the entity's shares or other equity instruments of the entity.
- 2 The date at which the entity and another party (including an employee) agree to a share-based payment arrangement, being when the entity and the other party have a shared understanding of the terms and conditions of the arrangement.
- 3 The goods or services received and a corresponding increase in equity.
- 4 By reference to the fair value of the equity instruments granted, measured at grant date.

Now try the question below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level       | Marks | Time    |
|--------|-------------|-------|---------|
| Q12    | Examination | 25    | 45 mins |



# 9

## Provisions, contingencies and events after the reporting period

| Topic list  | Syllabus reference |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 Revision of IAS 10 Events after the reporting period            | C8                 |
| 2 IAS 37 Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets | C8                 |
| 3 Proposed amendments   | C8                 |

### Introduction

You should be very familiar with IAS 10 from your earlier studies, but in the light of the Study Guide, you should concentrate on the issue of window dressing.

**Provisions** are an important area. Expect more complex IAS 37 scenarios at P2.

## Study guide

|           |  | Intellectual level |
|-----------|--|--------------------|
| <b>C8</b> | <b>Provisions, contingencies, events after the reporting period</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Apply and discuss the recognition, derecognition and measurement of provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets, including environmental provisions | 3                  |
| (b)       | Calculate and discuss restructuring provisions   | 3                  |
| (c)       | Apply and discuss accounting for events after the reporting date   | 3                  |
| (d)       | Determine going concern issues arising after the reporting date  | 3                  |
| <b>F2</b> | <b>Proposed changes to accounting standards</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Identify the issues and deficiencies which have led to a proposed change to an accounting standard   | 2                  |

## Exam guide

These standards are likely to be tested as part of a scenario question. You may also be asked to advise the directors on the implications for the financial statements of the changes proposed in the ED.

## 1 Revision of IAS 10 Events after the reporting period

### FAST FORWARD

**IAS 10** should be familiar from your earlier studies, but it still could come up in part of a question.

You have already studied IAS 10 *Events after the reporting period* extensively. Note, that the parts of IAS 10 that cover contingencies have been superseded by IAS 37, covered in the next section.

Knowledge brought forward from earlier studies

### **IAS 10: Events after the reporting period**

#### *Definition*

**Events after the reporting period** are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the year end and the date on which the financial statements are authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- those that provide further evidence of conditions that existed at the year end, and
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose subsequent to the year end.

#### *Accounting treatment*

- **Adjust** assets and liabilities where events after the end of the reporting period provide further evidence of conditions existing at the end of the reporting period.
- **Do not adjust**, but instead disclose, important events after the end of the reporting period that do not affect condition of assets/liabilities at the year end date.
- **Dividends** for period proposed/declared after the end of the reporting period but before FS are approved should not be recognised as a liability at the end of the reporting period. Dividends do not need the criteria of a present obligation in IAS 37 (see below). They should be disclosed as required by IAS 1.

*Disclosure*

- Nature of event
- Estimate of financial effect (or statement that estimate cannot be made)

Window dressing is the arranging of transactions, the substance of which is primarily to alter the appearance of the SOFP: it is **not** falsification of accounts. IAS 10 does allow window dressing but **disclosure** should be made of such transactions.

## 2 IAS 37 Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets

12/07, 6/11, 6/12

As we have seen with regard to events after the reporting period events, financial statements must include **all the information necessary for an understanding of the company's financial position**. Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets are 'uncertainties' that must be accounted for consistently if we are to achieve this understanding.

### 2.1 Objective

IAS 37 *Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets* aims to ensure that appropriate **recognition criteria** and **measurement bases** are applied to provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets and that **sufficient information** is disclosed in the **notes** to the financial statements to enable users to understand their nature, timing and amount.

### 2.2 Provisions

## FAST FORWARD

Under IAS 37, a **provision** should be recognised:

- When an entity has a **present obligation**, legal or constructive
- It is probable that a **transfer of economic benefits** will be required to settle it
- A reliable estimate can be made of its amount

You will be familiar with provisions for depreciation and doubtful debts from your earlier studies. The sorts of provisions addressed by IAS 37 are, however, rather different.

Before IAS 37, there was no accounting standard dealing with provisions. Companies wanting to show their results in the most favourable light used to make large 'one off' provisions in years where a high level of underlying profits was generated. These provisions, often known as 'big bath' provisions, were then available to shield expenditure in future years when perhaps the underlying profits were not as good.

In other words, provisions were used for profit smoothing. Profit smoothing is misleading.

## Important

The key aim of IAS 37 is to ensure that provisions are made only where there are valid grounds for them.

IAS 37 views a provision as a liability.

## Key terms

A **provision** is a **liability** of uncertain timing or amount.

A **liability** is an obligation of an entity to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events. (IAS 37)

The IAS distinguishes provisions from other liabilities such as trade payables and accruals. This is on the basis that for a provision there is **uncertainty** about the timing or amount of the future expenditure. While uncertainty is clearly present in the case of certain accruals the uncertainty is generally much less than for provisions.

## 2.3 Recognition

IAS 37 states that a provision should be **recognised** as a liability in the financial statements when:

- An entity has a **present obligation** (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event
- It is probable that a **transfer of economic benefits** will be required to settle the obligation
- A **reliable estimate** can be made of the obligation

## 2.4 Meaning of obligation

It is fairly clear what a legal obligation is. However, you may not know what a **constructive obligation** is.

### Key term

IAS 37 defines a **constructive obligation** as

'An obligation that derives from an entity's actions where:

- by an established pattern of past practice, published policies or a sufficiently specific current statement the entity has indicated to other parties that it will accept certain responsibilities, and
- as a result, the entity has created a valid expectation on the part of those other parties that it will discharge those responsibilities.'



### Question

### Recognise a provision

In which of the following circumstances might a provision be recognised?

- (a) On 13 December 20X9 the board of an entity decided to close down a division. The accounting date of the company is 31 December. Before 31 December 20X9 the decision was not communicated to any of those affected and no other steps were taken to implement the decision.
- (b) The board agreed a detailed closure plan on 20 December 20X9 and details were given to customers and employees.
- (c) A company is obliged to incur clean up costs for environmental damage (that has already been caused).
- (d) A company intends to carry out future expenditure to operate in a particular way in the future.

### Answer

- (a) No provision would be recognised as the decision has not been communicated.
- (b) A provision would be made in the 20X9 financial statements.
- (c) A provision for such costs is appropriate.
- (d) No present obligation exists and under IAS 37 no provision would be appropriate. This is because the entity could avoid the future expenditure by its future actions, maybe by changing its method of operation.

### 2.4.1 Probable transfer of economic benefits

For the purpose of the IAS, a transfer of economic benefits is regarded as '**probable**' if the event is **more likely than not** to occur. This appears to indicate a probability of more than 50%. However, the standard makes it clear that where there is a number of similar obligations the probability should be based on considering the population as a whole, rather than one single item.

## 2.5 Example: Transfer of economic benefits

If a company has entered into a warranty obligation then the probability of an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits (transfer of economic benefits) may well be extremely small in respect of one specific item. However, when considering the population as a whole the probability of some transfer

of economic benefits is quite likely to be much higher. If there is a **greater than 50% probability** of some transfer of economic benefits then a **provision** should be made for the **expected amount**.

### 2.5.1 Measurement of provisions

#### Important

The amount recognised as a provision should be the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the year end.

The estimates will be determined by the **judgement** of the entity's management supplemented by the experience of similar transactions.

Allowance is made for **uncertainty**. Where the provision being measured involves a large population of items, the obligation is estimated by weighting all possible outcomes by their discounted probabilities, ie **expected value**.



#### Question

#### Warranty

Parker Co sells goods with a warranty under which customers are covered for the cost of repairs of any manufacturing defect that becomes apparent within the first six months of purchase. The company's past experience and future expectations indicate the following pattern of likely repairs.

| <i>% of goods sold</i> | <i>Defects</i> | <i>Cost of repairs</i><br>\$m |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 75                     | None           | —                             |
| 20                     | Minor          | 1.0                           |
| 5                      | Major          | 4.0                           |

What is the expected cost of repairs?

#### Answer

The cost is found using 'expected values'  $(75\% \times \$\text{nil}) + (20\% \times \$1.0\text{m}) + (5\% \times \$4.0\text{m}) = \$400,000$ .

Where the effect of the **time value of money** is material, the amount of a provision should be the **present value** of the expenditure required to settle the obligation. An appropriate **discount** rate should be used.

The discount rate should be a **pre-tax rate** that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money. **The discount rate(s) should not reflect risks for which future cash flow estimates have been adjusted.**

### 2.5.2 Future events

**Future events** which are reasonably expected to occur (eg new legislation, changes in technology) may affect the amount required to settle the entity's obligation and should be taken into account.

### 2.5.3 Expected disposal of assets

Gains from the expected disposal of assets should not be taken into account in measuring a provision.

### 2.5.4 Reimbursements

Some or all of the expenditure needed to settle a provision may be expected to be recovered from a third party. If so, the **reimbursement should be recognised only when it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the entity settles the obligation.**

- The reimbursement should be treated as a separate asset, and the amount recognised should not be greater than the provision itself.
- The provision and the amount recognised for reimbursement may be netted off in profit or loss for the year.

### 2.5.5 Changes in provisions

Provisions should be renewed at each year end and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate. If it is no longer probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, the provision should be reversed.

### 2.5.6 Use of provisions

**A provision should be used only for expenditures for which the provision was originally recognised.**

Setting expenditures against a provision that was originally recognised for another purpose would conceal the impact of two different events.

### 2.5.7 Future operating losses

**Provisions should not be recognised for future operating losses.** They do not meet the definition of a liability and the general recognition criteria set out in the standard.

### 2.5.8 Onerous contracts

If an entity has a contract that is onerous, the present obligation under the contract **should be recognised and measured** as a provision. An example might be vacant leasehold property.

#### Key term

An **onerous contract** is a contract entered into with another party under which the unavoidable costs of fulfilling the terms of the contract exceed any revenues expected to be received from the goods or services supplied or purchased directly or indirectly under the contract and where the entity would have to compensate the other party if it did not fulfil the terms of the contract.

## 2.6 Examples of possible provisions

It is easier to see what IAS 37 is driving at if you look at examples of those items which are possible provisions under this standard. Some of these we have already touched on.

- Warranties.** These are argued to be genuine provisions as on past experience it is probable, ie more likely than not, that some claims will emerge. The provision must be estimated, however, on the basis of the class as a whole and not on individual claims. There is a clear legal obligation in this case.
- Major repairs.** In the past it has been quite popular for companies to provide for expenditure on a major overhaul to be accrued gradually over the intervening years between overhauls. Under IAS 37 this will no longer be possible as IAS 37 would argue that this is a mere intention to carry out repairs, not an obligation. The entity can always sell the asset in the meantime. The only solution is to treat major assets such as aircraft, ships, furnaces and so on as a series of smaller assets where each part is depreciated over shorter lives. Thus, any major overhaul may be argued to be replacement and therefore capital rather than revenue expenditure.
- Self insurance.** A number of companies have created a provision for self insurance based on the expected cost of making good fire damage and so on instead of paying premiums to an insurance company. Under IAS 37 this provision would no longer be justifiable as the entity has no obligation until a fire or accident occurs. No obligation exists until that time.
- Environmental contamination.** If the company has an environment policy such that other parties would expect the company to clean up any contamination or if the company has broken current environmental legislation then a provision for environmental damage must be made.

- (e) **Decommissioning or abandonment costs.** When an oil company initially purchases an oilfield it is put under a legal obligation to decommission the site at the end of its life. Prior to IAS 37 most oil companies up the provision gradually over the field so that no one year would be unduly burdened with the cost.

IAS 37, however, insists that a legal obligation exists on the initial expenditure on the field and therefore a liability exists immediately. This would appear to result in a large charge to profit or loss in the first year of operation of the field. However, the IAS takes the view that the cost of purchasing the field in the first place is not only the cost of the field itself but also the costs of putting it right again. Thus all the costs of abandonment may be capitalised.

- (f) **Restructuring.** This is considered in detail below.

### 2.6.1 Provisions for restructuring

One of the main purposes of IAS 37 was to target abuses of provisions for restructuring. Accordingly, IAS 37 lays down **strict criteria** to determine when such a provision can be made.

#### Key term

IAS 37 defines a **restructuring** as:

A programme that is planned and is controlled by management and materially changes either:

- the scope of a business undertaken by an entity, or
- the manner in which that business is conducted.

The IAS gives the following **examples** of events that may fall under the definition of restructuring.

- The **sale or termination** of a line of business
- The **closure of business locations** in a country or region or the **relocation** of business activities from one country region to another
- **Changes in management structure**, for example, the elimination of a layer of management
- **Fundamental reorganisations** that have a material effect on the **nature and focus** of the entity's operations

The question is whether or not an entity has an obligation – legal or constructive – at the year end.

- An entity must have a **detailed formal plan** for the restructuring.
- It must have **raised a valid expectation** in those affected that it will carry out the restructuring by starting to implement that plan or announcing its main features to those affected by it.

#### Important

**A mere management decision is not normally sufficient.** Management decisions may sometimes trigger off recognition, but only if earlier events such as negotiations with employee representatives and other interested parties have been concluded subject only to management approval.

Where the restructuring involves the **sale of an operation** then IAS 37 states that no obligation arises until the entity has entered into a **binding sale agreement**. This is because until this has occurred the entity will be able to change its mind and withdraw from the sale even if its intentions have been announced publicly.

### 2.6.2 Costs to be included within a restructuring provision

The IAS states that a restructuring provision should include only the **direct expenditures** arising from the restructuring.

- **Necessarily entailed** by the restructuring
- Not associated with the **ongoing activities** of the entity

The following costs should specifically **not** be included within a restructuring provision.

- **Retraining** or relocating continuing staff
- **Marketing**
- **Investment in new systems** and distribution networks

### 2.6.3 Disclosure

Disclosures for provisions fall into two parts.

- Disclosure of details of the **change in carrying value** of a provision from the beginning to the end of the year
- Disclosure of the **background** to the making of the provision and the uncertainties affecting its outcome

## 2.7 Contingent liabilities

### FAST FORWARD

An entity **should not recognise a contingent asset or liability**, but they **should be disclosed**.

Now you understand provisions it will be easier to understand contingent assets and liabilities.

### Key term

IAS 37 defines a **contingent liability** as:

- A possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the entity's control, or
- A present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognised because:
  - It is not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, or
  - The amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

As a rule of thumb, probable means more than 50% likely. **If an obligation is probable, it is not a contingent liability** – instead, a **provision is needed**.

### 2.7.1 Treatment of contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities **should not be recognised in financial statements** but they **should be disclosed**. The required disclosures are:

- A brief description of the nature of the contingent liability
- An estimate of its financial effect
- An indication of the uncertainties that exist
- The possibility of any reimbursement

## 2.8 Contingent assets

### Key term

IAS 37 defines a **contingent asset** as:

- A possible asset that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the entity's control.

**A contingent asset must not be recognised.** Only when the realisation of the related economic benefits is **virtually certain** should recognition take place. At that point, **the asset is no longer a contingent asset!**

### 2.8.1 Disclosure: contingent liabilities

A **brief description** must be provided of all material contingent liabilities unless they are likely to be remote. In addition, provide

- An estimate of their **financial effect**
- Details of **any uncertainties**



## 2.8.2 Disclosure: contingent assets

Contingent assets must only be disclosed in the notes if they are **probable**. In that case a brief description of the contingent asset should be provided along with an estimate of its likely financial effect.

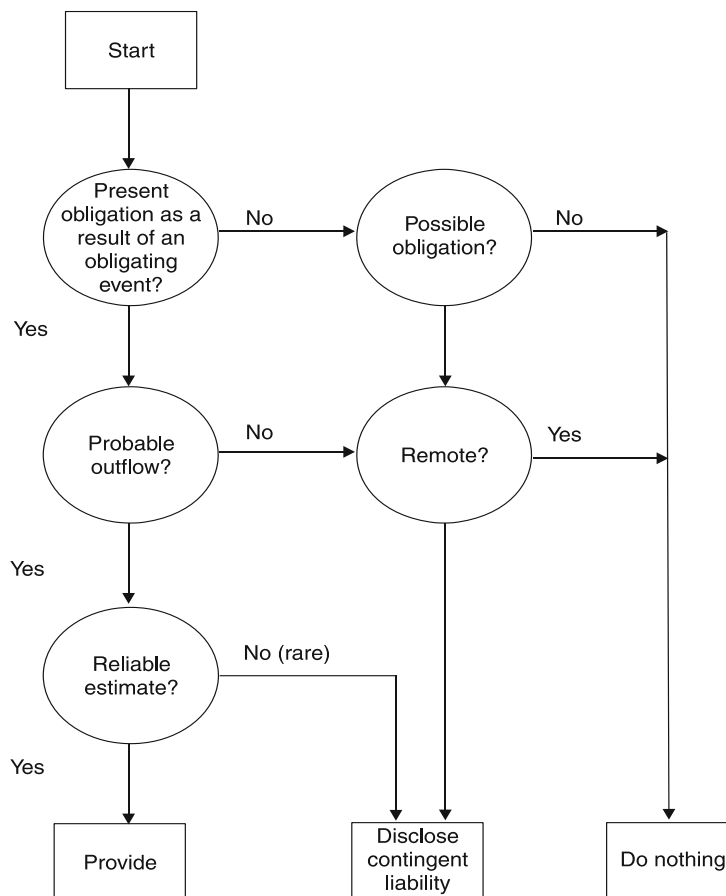
## 2.8.3 'Let out'

IAS 37 permits reporting entities to avoid disclosure requirements relating to provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets if they would be expected to **seriously prejudice** the position of the entity in dispute with other parties. However, this should only be employed in **extremely rare** cases. Details of the general nature of the provision/contingencies must still be provided, together with an explanation of why it has not been disclosed.

You must practise the questions below to get the hang of IAS 37. But first, study the flow chart, taken from IAS 37, which is a good summary of its requirements.

### Exam focus point

If you learn this flow chart you should be able to deal with most tasks you are likely to meet on exam.



### Question

### Recognise or not 1?

Warren Co gives warranties at the time of sale to purchasers of its products. Under the terms of the warranty the manufacturer undertakes to make good, by repair or replacement, manufacturing defects that become apparent within a period of three years from the year end. Should a provision be recognised?

### Answer

Warren Co **cannot avoid** the cost of repairing or replacing all items of product that manifest manufacturing defects in respect of which warranties are given before the end of the reporting period, and a provision for the cost of this should therefore be made.

Warren Co is obliged to repair or replace items that fail within the entire warranty period. Therefore, in respect of **this year's sales**, the obligation provided for at the year end should be the cost of making good items for which defects have been notified but not yet processed, **plus** an estimate of costs in respect of the other items sold for which there is sufficient evidence that manufacturing defects **will** manifest themselves during their remaining periods of warranty cover.



## Question

Recognise or not 2?

After a wedding in 20X8 ten people died, possibly as a result of food poisoning from products sold by Callow Co. Legal proceedings are started seeking damages from Callow but it disputes liability. Up to the date of approval of the financial statements for the year to 31 December 20X8, Callow's lawyers advise that it is probable that it will not be found liable. However, when Callow prepares the financial statements for the year to 31 December 20X9 its lawyers advise that, owing to developments in the case, it is probable that it will be found liable.

What is the required accounting treatment:

- (a) At 31 December 20X8?
- (b) At 31 December 20X9?

## Answer

- (a) *At 31 December 20X8*

On the basis of the evidence available when the financial statements were approved, there is no obligation as a result of past events. No provision is recognised. The matter is disclosed as a contingent liability unless the probability of any transfer is regarded as remote.

- (b) *At 31 December 20X9*

On the basis of the evidence available, there is a present obligation. A transfer of economic benefits in settlement is probable.

A provision is recognised for the best estimate of the amount needed to settle the present obligation.

## 2.9 Section summary

- The objective of IAS 37 is to ensure that appropriate recognition criteria and measurement bases are applied to provisions and contingencies and that sufficient information is disclosed.
- The IAS seeks to ensure that provisions are **only recognised** when a **measurable obligation** exists. It includes detailed rules that can be used to ascertain when an obligation exists and how to measure the obligation.
- The standard attempts to **eliminate** the '**profit smoothing**' which has gone on before it was issued.

## 3 Proposed amendments

6/12

### FAST FORWARD

An Exposure Draft issued in 2005 proposed **amendments to IAS 37**. These were supplemented by a further Exposure Draft in January 2010. A full replacement of IAS 37 is expected.

- (a) The standard would be re-named 'Liabilities' and be extended to include all liabilities not covered by other standards.
- (b) The terms 'contingent liability' and 'contingent asset' would be removed, and unconditional and conditional obligations introduced.
- (c) Expected values would be used.

The most obvious change is that the term 'provision' is no longer used; instead it is proposed that the term 'liability' is used.

## Key term

A **liability** is a liability other than a financial liability as defined in IAS 32 *Financial instruments: Presentation*.

## 3.1 Scope and terminology

IAS 37 defines a **provision** as a **liability of uncertain timing or amount**. The ED does not use the term provision, but proposes the use of the term 'liability' as defined above. This includes items previously described as provisions, but also all other liabilities not covered by other Accounting Standards.

## 3.2 Contingent liabilities

### 3.2.1 IAS 37 treatment

IAS 37 defines a contingent liability **as a possible obligation or a present obligation that is not recognised**. A contingent liability could be a present obligation that is not recognised either because it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation or because the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability. The standard does not permit contingent liabilities to be recognised but requires them to be disclosed, unless the possibility of any outflow of economic resources in settlement of the contingent liability is remote.

### 3.2.2 The proposals

The ED proposes changing the treatment as follows.

- (a) The term 'contingent liability' will be eliminated.
- (b) The term 'contingency' will be used to refer to uncertainty about the **amount that will be required to settle a liability** rather than uncertainty about whether a liability exists. The 2010 Exposure Draft clarified that liabilities will be (initially and subsequently) measured at the amount an entity would rationally pay to be relieved of the present obligation.
- (c) The ED specifies that a **liability** for which the settlement amount is contingent on one or more uncertain future events is **recognised independently of the probability** that the uncertain future event(s) will occur (or fail to occur).

The purpose of these amendments is twofold.

- (a) To clarify that **only present obligations** (rather than possible obligations) of an entity **give rise to liabilities** and that liabilities arise from **unconditional obligations**
- (b) To require **uncertainty about future events** that affect the amount that will be required to settle a liability to be **reflected in the measurement of the liability**

## 3.3 Contingent assets

### 3.3.1 IAS 37 treatment

IAS 37 defines a contingent asset as a **possible asset**. **It does not permit contingent assets to be recognised**, but requires them to be disclosed if an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

### 3.3.2 The proposals

The ED proposes changing the treatment as follows.

- (a) The term 'contingent asset' would be eliminated.
- (b) The term 'contingency' would be used to refer to uncertainty about the **amount of the future economic benefits embodied in an asset**, rather than uncertainty about whether an asset exists.

The purpose of this amendment is to clarify that only resources currently controlled by the entity as a result of a past transaction or event (rather than possible assets) give rise to assets, and that assets arise from unconditional rights.

### 3.4 Constructive obligations

#### 3.4.1 IAS 37 treatment

IAS 37 defines a constructive obligation as an obligation that derives from an entity's actions when the entity has (a) indicated to other parties that it will accept particular responsibilities and (b) as a result has created a valid expectation on the part of those other parties that it will discharge those responsibilities.

#### 3.4.2 The proposals

- (a) The **definition** of a constructive obligation will be **amended** to clarify that the actions of an entity must result in **other parties having a valid expectation** that they can reasonably rely on the entity to discharge its responsibilities.
- (b) **Additional guidance** will be provided to help determine whether an entity has incurred a constructive obligation.

### 3.5 Probability recognition criterion

The ED proposes **omitting the probability recognition criterion** (currently in IAS 37) from the standard because, in all cases, an unconditional obligation satisfies the criterion. Therefore, **items that satisfy the definition of a liability are recognised unless they cannot be measured reliably**.

#### 3.5.1 Rationale for proposed treatment

The Basis for Conclusions on the ED emphasises that the probability recognition criterion is used in the IASB's *Framework* to determine whether it is probable that settlement of an item that has previously been determined to be a liability will require an outflow of economic benefits from the entity. In other words, the *Framework* requires an entity to determine **whether a liability exists** before considering whether that liability should be recognised. The Basis notes that in many cases, although there may be uncertainty about the amount and timing of the resources that will be required to settle a liability, there is **little or no uncertainty** that settlement will require *some* outflow of resources.

#### 3.5.2 Example: Product warranty

In the case of a product warranty, the question is not whether it is probable that the entity will be required to repair or replace the product. Rather, the question is whether the entity's **unconditional** obligation to provide warranty coverage for the duration of the warranty (ie to stand ready to honour warranty claims) will probably result in an outflow of economic benefits.

### 3.6 Measurement

The obligation is measured as the **amount the entity would rationally pay to settle the obligation at the reporting date** or to transfer it to a third party. This is the lower of:

- The present value of the resources required to fulfil an obligation
- The amount that an entity would have to pay to cancel the obligation and
- The amount that the entity would have to pay to transfer the obligation to a third party

**Expected values** would be used, whether measuring a single obligation or a population of items.

For future services (eg decommissioning), outflows are based on contractor prices. The exception is for onerous contracts, where the amount to be used is the amount the entity, rather than the contractor, would pay.

## 3.7 Reimbursement

IAS 37 states that when expenditure required to settle a provision is expected to be reimbursed by another party, the reimbursement should be **recognised when it is virtually certain** that the reimbursement will be received. Consistently with the revised analysis of a contingent asset, the ED proposes that **if an entity has an unconditional right to receive reimbursement, that right should be recognised as an asset if it can be measured reliably.**

## 3.8 Onerous contracts

The ED provides additional recognition guidance relating to onerous contracts. The amount to be used is the amount the entity, rather than the contractor, would pay.

## 3.9 Restructuring provisions

### 3.9.1 IAS 37 treatment

IAS 37 states that an entity that (a) has a detailed formal plan for restructuring and (b) has raised a valid expectation in those affected that it will carry out the restructuring has a **constructive obligation**. Therefore, it **recognises a liability** for the direct expenditures arising from the restructuring.

### 3.9.2 The proposals

The ED proposes the following changes.

- (a) The application guidance will be revised to specify that a liability for a cost associated with a restructuring is **recognised only when the definition of a liability has been satisfied for that cost**. Accordingly, a cost associated with a restructuring is recognised as a liability on the same basis as if that cost arose independently of a restructuring.
- (b) **More specific guidance** will be given for costs associated with a restructuring.

## 3.10 Example of change from IAS 37

A entity is being sued for damages of £15 million. Legal proceedings have started, but the entity disputes liability. The entity estimates that it has a 20 per cent chance of losing the case. Under IAS 37, the entity would disclose a contingent liability of £15 million in the notes to the accounts. Under the new proposals, the entity has an unconditional obligation to stand ready to pay the damages if awarded. In this case, it would recognise a liability of £3 million.

### 3.10.1 Example: Present obligation

Shortly before 31 December 20X0, a patient dies in a hospital as a result of a mistake made during an operation. The hospital is aware that a mistake occurred. In these circumstances, the hospital's past experiences and lawyer's advice indicate that it is highly likely that the patient's relatives will start legal proceedings and, if the matter comes to court, that the hospital will be found guilty of negligence.

At the time that the financial statements are authorised for issue in early 20X1, the hospital has not received notice of legal proceedings against it.

Explain the accounting treatment required, in terms of recognition or otherwise and measurement.

### Solution

There is a present obligation as a result of a past event, this being the operation in which negligence occurred. Accordingly, a liability is recognised.

Measurement of the liability reflects the likelihood that the hospital will be required to pay compensation because of the mistake, and the amount and timing of that compensation.

## Chapter Roundup

- **IAS 10** should be familiar from your earlier studies, but it still could come up in part of a question.
- Under IAS 37, a **provision** should be recognised:
  - When an entity has a **present obligation**, legal or constructive
  - It is probable that a **transfer of economic benefits** will be required to settle it
  - A reliable estimate can be made of its amount
- An entity **should not recognise a contingent asset or liability**, but they **should be disclosed**.
- An Exposure Draft issued in 2005 proposed **amendments to IAS 37**. These were supplemented by a further Exposure Draft in January 2010. A full replacement of IAS 37 is expected.
  - (a) The standard would be re-named 'Liabilities' and be extended to include all liabilities not covered by other standards.
  - (b) The terms 'contingent liability' and 'contingent asset' would be removed, and unconditional and conditional obligations introduced.
  - (c) Expected values would be used.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 According to IAS 37 when, and only when, can a provision be recognised?
- 2 A provision can be made for future operating losses. *True or false?*
- 3 When should a contingent liability be recognised?

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1
  - Present obligation
  - Probable transfer of economic benefits
  - Reliable estimate of value
- 2 False
- 3 Never. However, they should be disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Now try the question below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level       | Marks | Time    |
|--------|-------------|-------|---------|
| Q13    | Examination | 25    | 45 mins |

# 10

## Related parties

| Topic list                         | Syllabus reference |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 IAS 24 Related party disclosures | C9                 |
| 2 Question                         | C9                 |

### Introduction

In general, P2 is not much concerned with disclosures. IAS 24 is an exception to this.

## Study guide

|     |  | Intellectual level |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| C9  | Related parties  |                    |
| (a) | Determine the parties considered to be related to an entity                          | 3                  |
| (b) | Identify the implications of related party relationships and the need for disclosure | 3                  |

## Exam guide

This topic may come up as part of a scenario question.

### 1 IAS 24 Related party disclosures

6/11

#### FAST FORWARD

**IAS 24** is primarily a disclosure standard. It is concerned to improve the quality of information provided by published accounts and also to strengthen their stewardship roles.

In the absence of information to the contrary, it is assumed that a reporting entity has **independent discretionary power** over its resources and transactions and pursues its activities independently of the interests of its individual owners, managers and others. Transactions are presumed to have been undertaken on an **arm's length basis**, ie on terms such as could have obtained in a transaction with an external party, in which each side bargained knowledgeably and freely, unaffected by any relationship between them.

These assumptions may not be justified when **related party relationships** exist, because the requisite conditions for competitive, free market dealings may not be present. While the parties may endeavour to achieve arm's length bargaining the very nature of the relationship may preclude this occurring.

#### 1.1 Objective

This is the related parties issue and IAS 24 tackles it by ensuring that financial statements contain the disclosures necessary to draw attention to the possibility that the reported financial position and results may have been affected by the existence of related parties and by material transactions with them. In other words, this is a standard which is primarily concerned with **disclosure**.

#### 1.2 Scope

The standard requires disclosure of related party transactions and outstanding balances in the **separate financial statements** of a parent, venturer or investor presented in accordance with IAS 27 as well as in consolidated financial statements.

An entity's financial statements disclose related party transactions and outstanding balances with other entities in a group. **Intragroup** transactions and balances are **eliminated** in the preparation of consolidated financial statements.

#### 1.3 Definitions

The following important definitions are given by the standard. Note that the definitions of **control** and **significant influence** are now the same as those given in IFRS 10, IAS 28 and IFRS 11. The definitions of related parties were revised in 2009.



## Key terms

**Related party.** A related party is a person or entity that is related to the entity that is preparing its financial statements.

- (a) A **person** or a close member of that person's family is **related** to a reporting entity if that person:
  - (i) has control or joint control over the reporting entity;
  - (ii) has significant influence over the reporting entity; or
  - (iii) is a member of the key management personnel of the reporting entity or of a parent of the reporting entity.
- (b) An **entity** is related to a reporting entity if any of the following conditions applies:
  - (i) The entity and the reporting entity are members of the same group (which means that each parent, subsidiary and fellow subsidiary is related to the others).
  - (ii) One entity is an associate or joint venture of the other entity (or an associate or joint venture of a member of a group of which the other entity is a member).
  - (iii) Both entities are joint ventures of the same third party.
  - (iv) One entity is a joint venture of a third entity and the other entity is an associate of the third entity.
  - (v) The entity is a post-employment defined benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either the reporting entity or an entity related to the reporting entity. If the reporting entity is itself such a plan, the sponsoring employers are also related to the reporting entity.
  - (vi) The entity is controlled or jointly controlled by a person identified in (a).
  - (vii) A person identified in (a)(i) has significant influence over the entity or is a member of the key management personnel of the entity (or of a parent of the entity).

**Related party transaction.** A transfer of resources, services or obligations between related parties, regardless of whether a price is charged.

**Control** is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

**Significant influence** is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of an entity, but is not control over these policies. Significant ownership may be gained by share ownership, statute or agreement.

**Joint control** is the contractually agreed sharing of control over an economic activity.

**Key management personnel** are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity.

**Close members of the family of an individual** are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that individual in their dealings with the entity. They may include:

- (a) the individual's domestic partner and children;
- (b) children of the domestic partner; and
- (c) dependants of the individual or the domestic partner. (IAS 24)

The most important point to remember here is that, when considering each possible related party relationship, attention must be paid to the **substance of the relationship, not merely the legal form**.

IAS 24 lists the following which are **not necessarily related parties**.

- (a) **Two entities simply because they have a director or other key management in common** (notwithstanding the definition of related party above, although it is necessary to consider how that director would affect both entities)
- (b) **Two venturers, simply because they share joint control over a joint venture.**

- (c) Certain other bodies, simply as a result of their **role in normal business dealings** with the entity
  - (i) Providers of finance
  - (ii) Trade unions
  - (iii) Public utilities
  - (iv) Government departments and agencies
- (d) **Any single customer, supplier, franchisor, distributor, or general agent** with whom the entity transacts a significant amount of business, simply by virtue of the resulting economic dependence.

## 1.4 Exemption for government-related entities

Before the 2009 revision of IAS 24, if a government controlled or significantly influenced an entity, the entity was required to disclose information about all transactions with other entities controlled, or significantly influenced, by the same government. The revised standard still requires disclosures that are significant to users of the financial statements, but **eliminates the need to disclose information that is costly to gather, and of less value to users**. It achieves this by limiting disclosure required to transactions that are individually or collectively significant.

## 1.5 Disclosure

As noted above, IAS 24 is almost entirely concerned with disclosure and its provisions are meant to **supplement** those disclosure requirements required by national company legislation and other IFRSs (particularly IAS 1, IFRS 10, IFRS 11 and IFRS 12?).

The standard lists some **examples** of transactions that are disclosed if they are with a related party:

- Purchases or sales of goods (finished or unfinished)
- Purchases or sales of property and other assets
- Rendering or receiving of services
- Leases
- Transfer of research and development
- Transfers under licence agreements
- Provision of finance (including loans and equity contributions in cash or in kind)
- Provision of guarantees and collateral security
- Settlement of liabilities on behalf of the entity or by the entity on behalf of another party.

Relationships between **parents and subsidiaries** must be **disclosed irrespective of whether any transactions have taken place between** the related parties. An entity must disclose the **name** of its **parent** and, if different, the **ultimate controlling party**. This will enable a reader of the financial statements to be able to form a view about the effects of a related party relationship on the reporting entity.

If neither the parent nor the ultimate controlling party produces financial statements available for public use, the name of the next most senior parent that does so shall also be disclosed.

An entity should disclose key management personnel compensation in total for various categories:

- (a) Items of a similar nature may be **disclosed in aggregate** *unless* separate disclosure is necessary for an understanding of the effect on the financial statements.
- (b) Disclosures that related party transactions were made on terms equivalent to those that prevail in arm's length transactions are made only if such disclosures can be substantiated.

## 1.6 Section summary

IAS 24 is primarily concerned with **disclosure**. You should learn the following.

- **Definitions:** these are very important
- Relationships covered
- Relationships that **may not** necessarily be between related parties
- **Disclosures:** again, very important, representing the whole purpose of the standard



## Question

## Related parties

Fancy Feet Co is a UK company which supplies handmade leather shoes to a chain of high street shoe shops. The company is also the sole importer of some famous high quality Greek stoneware which is supplied to an upmarket shop in London's West End.

Fancy Feet Co was set up 30 years ago by Georgios Kostades who left Greece when he fell out with the military government. The company is owned and run by Mr Kostades and his three children.

The shoes are purchased from a French company, the shares of which are owned by the Kostades Family Trust (Monaco).

### Required

Identify the financial accounting issues arising out of the above scenario.

## Answer

### Issues

- (a) The basis on which Fancy Feet trades with the Greek supplier and the French company owned by the Kostades family trust.
- (b) Whether the overseas companies trade on commercial terms with the UK company or do the foreign entities control the UK company.
- (c) Who owns the Greek company: is this a related party under the provisions of IAS 24?
- (d) Should the nature of trade suggest a related party controls Fancy Feet Co? Detailed disclosures will be required in the accounts.

## 2 Question

Try this longer question on related parties.



## Question

## RP Group

Discuss whether the following events would require disclosure in the financial statements of the RP Group, a public limited company, under IAS 24 *Related party disclosures*.

The RP Group, merchant bankers, has a number of subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures in its group structure. During the financial year to 31 October 20X9 the following events occurred.

- (a) The company agreed to finance a management buyout of a group company, AB, a limited company. In addition to providing loan finance, the company has retained a 25% equity holding in the company and has a main board director on the board of AB. RP received management fees, interest payments and dividends from AB.
- (b) On 1 July 20X9, RP sold a wholly owned subsidiary, X, a limited company, to Z, a public limited company. During the year RP supplied X with secondhand office equipment and X leased its factory from RP. The transactions were all contracted for at market rates.
- (c) The retirement benefit scheme of the group is managed by another merchant bank. An investment manager of the group retirement benefit scheme is also a non-executive director of the RP Group and received an annual fee for his services of \$25,000 which is not material in the group context. The company pays \$16m per annum into the scheme and occasionally transfers assets into the scheme. In 20X9, property, plant and equipment of \$10m were transferred into the scheme and a recharge of administrative costs of \$3m was made.

- (a) IAS 24 does not require disclosure of transactions between companies and providers of finance in the ordinary course of business. As RP is a merchant bank, no disclosure is needed between RP and AB. However, RP owns 25% of the equity of AB and it would seem significant influence exists (IAS 28, **greater than 20% existing holding means significant influence is presumed**) and therefore AB could be an associate of RP. IAS 24 regards associates as related parties.

The decision as to associate status depends upon the ability of RP to exercise significant influence especially as the other 75% of votes are owned by the management of AB.

Merchant banks tend to regard companies which would qualify for associate status as trade investments since the relationship is designed to provide finance.

**IAS 28 presumes that a party owning or able to exercise control over 20% of voting rights is a related party.** So an investor with a 25% holding and a director on the board would be expected to have significant influence over operating and financial policies in such a way as to inhibit the pursuit of separate interests. If it can be shown that this is not the case, there is no related party relationship.

If it is decided that there is a related party situation then **all material transactions** should be disclosed including **management fees, interest, dividends and the terms of the loan.**

- (b) **IAS 24 does not require intragroup transactions and balances eliminated on consolidation to be disclosed.** IAS 24 does not deal with the situation where an undertaking becomes, or ceases to be, a subsidiary during the year.

Best practice indicates that related party transactions should be disclosed for the period when X was not part of the group. Transactions between RP and X should be disclosed between 1 July 20X9 and 31 October 20X9 but transactions prior to 1 July will have been eliminated on consolidation.

There is no related party relationship between RP and Z since it is a normal business transaction unless either parties interests have been influenced or controlled in some way by the other party.

- (c) **Employee retirement benefit schemes** of the reporting entity are included in the IAS 24 definition of **related parties.**

The contributions paid, the non current asset transfer (\$10m) and the charge of administrative costs (\$3m) must be disclosed.

The **pension investment manager** would **not normally** be **considered a related party.** However, the manager is **key management personnel** by virtue of his **non-executive directorship.**

Directors are deemed to be related parties by IAS 24, and the manager receives a \$25,000 fee. IAS 24 requires the disclosure of **compensation paid to key management personnel** and the fee falls within the definition of compensation. Therefore, it must be disclosed.

## Chapter Roundup

- **IAS 24** is primarily a disclosure standard. It is concerned to improve the quality of information provided by published accounts and also to strengthen their stewardship roles.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 What is a related party transaction?
- 2 A managing director of a company is a related party. *True / False?*

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 A transfer of resources, services or obligations between related parties, regardless of whether a price is charged.
- 2 True. A member of the key management personnel of an entity is a related party of that entity.

Now try the question below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level        | Marks | Time |
|--------|--------------|-------|------|
| Q14    | Introductory | n/a   | n/a  |

# Leases

| Topic list                       | Syllabus reference |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Forms of lease                 | C4                 |
| 2 Lessee accounting              | C4                 |
| 3 Lessor accounting              | C4                 |
| 4 Criticism and proposed changes | C4                 |

## Introduction

**Leasing transactions** are extremely common in business and you will often come across them in both your business and personal capacity. You should be familiar with the more straightforward aspects of this topic from your earlier studies, but we will go through these aspects in full as leasing can be very complicated. The first section of this chapter goes over some of that basic groundwork, before the chapter moves on to more complicated aspects.

## Study guide

|           |  | Intellectual level |
|-----------|--|--------------------|
| <b>C4</b> | <b>Leases</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Apply and discuss the classification of leases and accounting by lessors and lessees | 3                  |
| (b)       | Account for and discuss sale and leaseback transactions                              | 3                  |

## Exam guide

The Study Guide and Pilot paper suggest that the emphasis may be on revenue recognition aspects or sale and leaseback rather than the mechanics.

## 1 Forms of lease

### FAST FORWARD

**IAS 17** covers the accounting under lease transactions for both lessees and lessors.

There are **two forms of lease**:

- Finance leases
- Operating leases

A **lease** is a contract between a lessee for the hire of a specific asset. The lessor retains ownership of the asset but conveys the right of the use of the asset to the lessee for an agreed period of time in return for the payment of specified rentals. The term 'lease' also applies to other arrangements in which one party retains ownership of an asset but conveys the right to the use of the asset to another party for an agreed period of time in return for specified payments.

### FAST FORWARD

The definition of a **finance lease** is very important: it is a lease that transfers all the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset, regardless of whether legal title passes.

Leasing can be considered, to be, like hire purchase, a form of instalment credit. Leases of this type are referred to as **finance leases**. Although there are many variations, in general a finance lease will have the following characteristics.

- The lease term will consist of a **primary period and a secondary period**. The primary period, which may be for three, four or five years, will be non-cancellable or cancellable only under certain conditions, for example on the payment of a heavy settlement figure. The secondary period is usually cancellable at any time at the lessee's option.
- The rentals payable during the primary period will be sufficient to **repay to the lessor** the cost of the equipment plus interest thereon.
- The rentals during the secondary period will be of a **nominal amount**.
- If the lessee wishes to **terminate the lease** during the secondary period, the equipment will be sold and substantially all of the sale proceeds will be paid to the lessee as a rebate of rentals.
- The lessee will be responsible for the **maintenance and insurance** of equipment throughout the lease.

It can be seen from the above that, from the point of view of the lessee, leasing an asset is very **similar to purchasing** it using a loan repayable over the primary period. The lessee has all of the benefits and responsibilities of ownership except for the capital allowances.

Other, leases are of a very different nature. For example, a businessman may decide to hire (lease) a car while his own is being repaired. A lease of this nature is for a short period of time compared with the car's useful life and the lessor will expect to lease it to many different lessees during that life. Furthermore, the lessor rather than the lessee will be responsible for maintenance. Agreements of this type are usually called **operating leases**.



**IAS 17 Leases** requires that different accounting treatments should be adopted for finance and operating leases. In distinguishing between them, IAS 17 gives the following definitions.

## Key terms

**Lease.** An agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee in return for a payment or series of payments the right to use an asset for an agreed period of time.

**Finance lease.** A lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. Title may or may not eventually be transferred.

**Operating lease.** A lease other than a finance lease.

(IAS 17)

When we talk of **risks** here, we specifically mean the risks of ownership, not other types of risk. Risks of **ownership** include the possibility of losses from idle capacity or technological obsolescence, or variations in return due to changing economic conditions. The **rewards** are represented by the expectation of profitable operation over the asset's economic life, and also any gain from appreciation in value or realisation of a residual value.

IAS 17 applies the same definitions and accounting principles to both lessees and lessors, but the **different circumstances** of each may lead each to classify the same lease differently.

Classification is made at the **inception of the lease**. Any revised agreement should be treated as a new agreement over its term. In contrast, changes in estimates (eg of economic life or residual value of the property) or changes in circumstances (eg default by the lessee) do not lead to a new classification of a lease for accounting purposes.

**Land** normally has an indefinite economic life. If the lessee does not receive legal title by the end of the lease, then the lessee does not receive substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the land, in which case the lease of land will normally be an operating lease. Any premium paid for such a leasehold is effectively a prepayment of lease payments. These are amortised over the lease term according to the pattern of benefits provided.

Following the improvements to IFRS issued by the IASB in 2009, land held under a long lease may now be classified as a finance lease.

Where there is a lease of both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for the purpose of lease classification, unless title to both elements is expected to pass to the lessee by the end of the lease term (in which case both elements are classified as a financial lease). When the land has an indefinite economic life, the land element is classified as an operating lease unless title is expected to pass to the lessee by the end of the lease term; the buildings element is classified as a finance or operating lease.



## Question

## Finance lease

Given the above definition of a finance lease, can you think of examples of situations that would normally lead to a lease being classified as a finance lease?

## Answer

Some of these (given by IAS 17) may seem fairly obvious, but others are quite complicated.

- (a) The lease transfers ownership of the asset to the lessee by the end of the lease term
- (b) The lessee has the option to purchase the asset at a price which is expected to be sufficiently lower than the fair value at the date the option becomes exercisable such that, at the inception of the lease, it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised
- (c) The lease term is for the major part of the economic life of the asset even if title is not transferred
- (d) At the inception of the lease the present value of the minimum lease payments amounts to at least substantially all of the fair value of the leased asset

- (e) The leased assets are of a specialised nature such that only the lessee can use them without major modifications being made

There are also some indicators of situations which individually or in combination could lead to a lease being classified as a finance lease.

- (a) If the lessee can cancel the lease, the lessor's losses associated with the cancellation are borne by the lessee
- (b) Gains or losses from the fluctuation in the fair value of the residual fall to the lessee (eg in the form of a rent rebate equalling most of the sales proceeds at the end of the lease)
- (c) The lessee has the ability to continue the lease for a secondary period at a rent which is substantially lower than market rent

## 1.1 Other definitions

### FAST FORWARD

Make sure you learn these **important definitions** from IAS 17:

- Minimum lease payments
- Interest rate implicit in the lease
- Guaranteed/unguaranteed residual values
- Gross net investments in the lease

IAS 17 gives a substantial number of definitions.

### Key terms

**Minimum lease payments.** The payments over the lease term that the lessee is or can be required to make, excluding contingent rent, costs for services and taxes to be paid by and be reimbursable to the lessor, together with:

- (a) For a lessee, any amounts guaranteed by the lessee or by a party related to the lessee
- (b) For a lessor, any residual value guaranteed to the lessor by one of the following.
- (i) The lessee
  - (ii) A party related to the lessee
  - (iii) An independent third party financially capable of meeting this guarantee

However, if the lessee has the option to purchase the asset at a price which is expected to be sufficiently lower than fair value at the date the option becomes exercisable for it to be reasonably certain, at the inception of the lease, that the option will be exercised, the minimum lease payments comprise the minimum payments payable over the lease term to the expected date of exercise of this purchase option and the payment required to exercise it

**Interest rate implicit in the lease.**

The discount rate that, at the inception of the lease, causes the aggregate present value of

- (a) the minimum lease payments, and
- (b) the unguaranteed residual value

to be equal to the sum of

- (a) the fair value of the leased asset, and
- (b) any initial direct costs.

**Initial direct costs** are **incremental costs** that are directly attributable to **negotiating** and **arranging** a lease, except for such costs incurred by manufacturer or dealer lessors. Examples of initial direct costs include amounts such as **commissions**, **legal fees** and relevant internal costs.

**Lease term.** The non-cancellable period for which the lessee has contracted to lease the asset together with any further terms for which the lessee has the option to continue to lease the asset, with or without further payment, when at the inception of the lease it is reasonably certain that the lessee will exercise the option.

## Key terms (cont')

A non-cancellable lease is a lease that is cancellable only in one of the following situations.

- (a) Upon the occurrence of some remote contingency
- (b) With the permission of the lessor
- (c) If the lessee enters into a new lease for the same or an equivalent asset with the same lessor
- (d) Upon payment by the lessee of an additional amount such that, at inception, continuation of the lease is reasonably certain

The **inception of the lease** is the earlier of the date of the lease agreement and the date of commitment by the parties to the principal provisions of the lease. As at this date:

- (a) a lease is classified as either an operating lease or a finance lease; and
- (b) in the case of a finance lease, the amounts to be recognised at the lease term are determined.

**Economic life** is either:

- (a) the period over which an asset is expected to be economically usable by one or more users, or
- (b) the number of production or similar units expected to be obtained from the asset by one or more users.

**Useful life** is the estimated remaining period, from the beginning of the lease term, without limitation by the lease term, over which the economic benefits embodied in the asset are expected to be consumed by the entity.

**Guaranteed residual value** is:

- (a) For a lessee, that part of the residual value which is guaranteed by the lessee or by a party related to the lessee (the amount of the guarantee being the maximum amount that could, in any event, become payable)
- (b) For a lessor, that part of the residual value which is guaranteed by the lessee or by a third party unrelated to the lessor who is financially capable of discharging the obligations under the guarantee.

**Unguaranteed residual value** is that portion of the residual value of the leased asset, the realisation of which by the lessor is not assured or is guaranteed solely by a party related to the lessor.

**Gross investment in the lease** is the aggregate of:

- (a) The minimum lease payments receivable by the lessor under a finance lease, and
- (b) Any unguaranteed residual value accruing to the lessor.

**Net investment in the lease** is the gross investment in the lease discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease.

**Unearned finance income** is the difference between:

- (a) The gross investment in the lease, and
- (b) The net investment in the lease.

The lessee's incremental borrowing rate of interest is the rate of interest the lessee would have to pay on a similar lease or, if that is not determinable, the rate that, at the inception of the lease, the lessee would incur to borrow over a similar term, and with a similar security, the funds necessary to purchase the asset.

**Contingent rent** is that portion of the lease payments that is not fixed in amount but is based on a factor other than just the passage of time (eg percentage of sales, amount of usage, price indices, market rates of interest). (IAS 17)

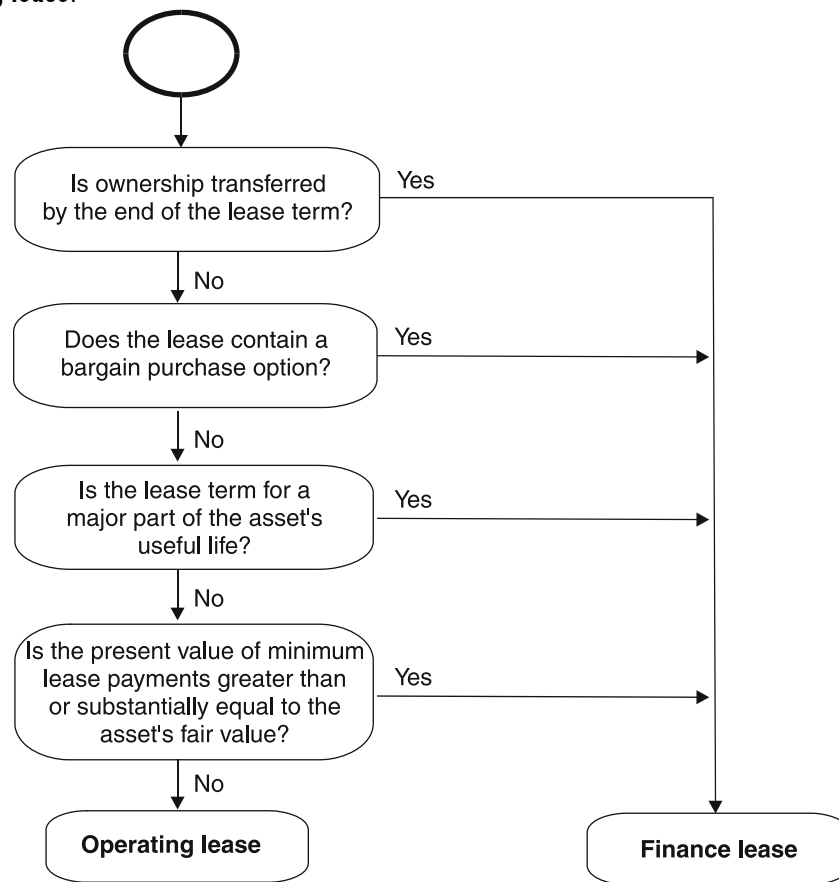
Some of these definitions are only of relevance once we look at lessor accounting in Section 3.

You should also note here that IAS 17 **does not apply to** either (a) or (b) below.

- (a) Lease agreements to explore for or use of natural resources (eg oil, gas, timber).
- (b) Licensing agreements for items such as motion picture films, plays, etc.

## 1.2 Section summary

The following diagram should help you remember how to determine whether a lease is a **finance lease** or an **operating lease**.



## 2 Lessee accounting

12/07, 6/12

### FAST FORWARD

#### Lessee accounting:

- **Finance leases:** record an asset in the statement of financial position and a liability to pay for it (fair value or PV of minimum lease payments), apportion the finance charge to give a constant periodic rate of return.
- **Operating leases:** write off rentals on a straight line basis.

### Exam focus point

Your earlier studies concentrated on lessee accounting. This is therefore given fairly brief coverage before we go on to look at the more complex areas of lessor accounting.

### 2.1 Finance leases

From the lessee's point of view there are two main **accounting problems**.

- Whether the asset should be **capitalised** as if it had been purchased.
- How the **lease charges** should be allocated between different accounting periods.

#### 2.1.1 Accounting treatment

IAS 17 requires that a finance lease should be recorded in the statement of financial position of a lessee as an asset and as an obligation to pay future lease payments. At the inception of the lease the sum to be recorded both as an asset and as a liability should be the **fair value of the leased property** or, if lower, at

the **present value of the minimum lease payments**. The latter are derived by discounting them at the interest rate implicit in the lease.

If it is not practicable to determine the interest rate implied in the lease, then the lessee's **incremental borrowing rate** can be used.

Any **initial direct costs** of the lessee are added to the amount recognised as an asset. Such costs are often incurred in connection with securing or negotiating a lease. Only those costs which are directly attributable to activities performed by the lessee to obtain a finance lease should be added to the amount recognised as an asset.

IAS 17 states that it is not appropriate to show liabilities for leased assets as deductions from the leased assets. A distinction should be made between **current and non-current** lease liabilities, if the entity makes this distinction for other assets.

### 2.1.2 Lease payments

**Minimum lease payments** should be apportioned between the finance charge and a reduction of the outstanding obligation for future amounts payable. The total finance charge under a finance lease should be allocated to accounting periods during the lease term so as to produce a **constant periodic rate of interest** on the remaining balance of the obligation for each accounting period, or a reasonable approximation thereto.

Contingent rents should be charged in the periods in which they are incurred.

An asset leased under a finance lease should be **depreciated** over the shorter of the lease term or its useful life if there is no reasonable certainty that the lessee will obtain ownership by the end of the lease term. The policy of depreciation adopted should be **consistent** with similar non-leased assets and calculations should follow the bases set out in IAS 16 (see [Chapter 4](#)).

IAS 17 (revised) introduced guidance on **impairment** of leased assets by referring to IAS 36.

### 2.1.3 Lessees' disclosure for finance leases

IAS 17 (revised) introduced substantial disclosures (in addition to those required by IFRS 7: see [Chapter 7](#)).

- The **net carrying amount** at the year end for each class of asset
- A **reconciliation** between the total of minimum lease payments at the year end, and their present value. In addition, an entity should disclose the total of minimum lease payments at the year end, and their present value, for each of the following periods:
  - Not later than one year
  - Later than one year and not later than five years
  - Later than five years
- **Contingent rents** recognised as an expense for the period
- Total of **future minimum sublease payments** expected to be received under non-cancellable subleases at the year end
- A **general description** of the lessee's significant leasing arrangements including, but not limited to, the following:
  - The basis on which contingent rent payments are determined
  - The existence and terms of renewal or purchase options and escalation clauses
  - Restrictions imposed by lease arrangements, such as those concerning dividends, additional debt, and further leasing

### 2.1.4 Arguments against capitalisation

We have seen that the main argument in favour of capitalisation is substance over form. The main arguments **against** capitalisation are as follows.

- (a) **Legal position.** The benefit of a lease to a lessee is an intangible asset, not the ownership of the equipment. It may be misleading to users of accounts to capitalise the equipment when a lease is legally quite different from a loan used to purchase the equipment. Capitalising leases also raises the question of whether other executory contracts should be treated similarly, for example contracts of employment.
- (b) **Complexity.** Many small businesses will find that they do not have the expertise necessary for carrying out the calculations required for capitalisation.
- (c) **Subjectivity.** To some extent, capitalisation is a somewhat arbitrary process and this may lead to a lack of consistency between companies.
- (d) **Presentation.** The impact of leasing can be more usefully described in the notes to financial statements. These can be made readily comprehensible to users who may not understand the underlying calculations.

### 2.1.5 Allocating finance charge

There are two main ways of **allocating the finance charge** between accounting periods.

- Actuarial method (before tax)
- Sum of the digits method

#### Exam focus point

The sum of the digits method is not examinable.

The **actuarial method** is the best and most scientific method. It derives from the common-sense assumption that the interest charged by a lessor company will equal the rate of return desired by the company, multiplied by the amount of capital it has invested.

- (a) At the beginning of the lease the capital invested is equal to the fair value of the asset (less any initial deposit paid by the lessee).
- (b) This amount reduces as each instalment is paid. It follows that the interest accruing is greatest in the early part of the lease term, and gradually reduces as capital is repaid. In this section, we will look at a simple example of the actuarial method.

## 2.2 Example: Actuarial method

On 1 January 20X0 Bacchus Co, wine merchants, buys a small bottling and labelling machine from Silenus Co under a finance lease. The cash price of the machine was \$7,710 while the amount to be paid was \$10,000. The agreement required the immediate payment of a \$2,000 deposit with the balance being settled in four equal annual instalments commencing on 31 December 20X0. The charge of \$2,290 represents interest of 15% per annum, calculated on the remaining balance of the liability during each accounting period. Depreciation on the plant is to be provided for at the rate of 20% per annum on a straight line basis assuming a residual value of nil.

You are required to show the breakdown of each instalment between interest and capital, using the actuarial method.

### Solution

Interest is calculated as 15% of the outstanding *capital* balance at the beginning of each year. The outstanding capital balance reduces each year by the capital element comprised in each instalment. The outstanding capital balance at 1 January 20X0 is \$5,710 (\$7,710 fair value less \$2,000 deposit).

|                               | <i>Total</i><br>\$ | <i>Capital</i><br>\$ | <i>Interest</i><br>\$ |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Capital balance at 1 Jan 20X0 |                    | 5,710                |                       |
| 1st instalment                |                    |                      |                       |
| (interest = \$5,710 × 15%)    | 2,000              | <u>1,144</u>         | 856                   |
| Capital balance at 1 Jan 20X1 |                    | 4,566                |                       |
| 2nd instalment                |                    |                      |                       |
| (interest = \$4,566 × 15%)    | 2,000              | <u>1,315</u>         | 685                   |
| Capital balance at 1 Jan 20X2 |                    | 3,251                |                       |
| 3rd instalment                |                    |                      |                       |
| (interest = \$3,251 × 15%)    | 2,000              | <u>1,512</u>         | 488                   |
| Capital balance at 1 Jan 20X3 |                    | 1,739                |                       |
| 4th instalment                |                    |                      |                       |
| (interest = \$1,739 × 15%)    | <u>2,000</u>       | <u>1,739</u>         | <u>261</u>            |
|                               | <u>8,000</u>       |                      | <u>2,290</u>          |
| Capital balance at 1 Jan 20X4 |                    | <u>—</u>             |                       |

## 2.3 Operating leases

IAS 17 requires that the **rentals** under operating leases should be written off as an expense on a **straight line basis** over the lease term even if the payments are not made on such a basis, unless another systematic and rational basis is justified by the circumstances.

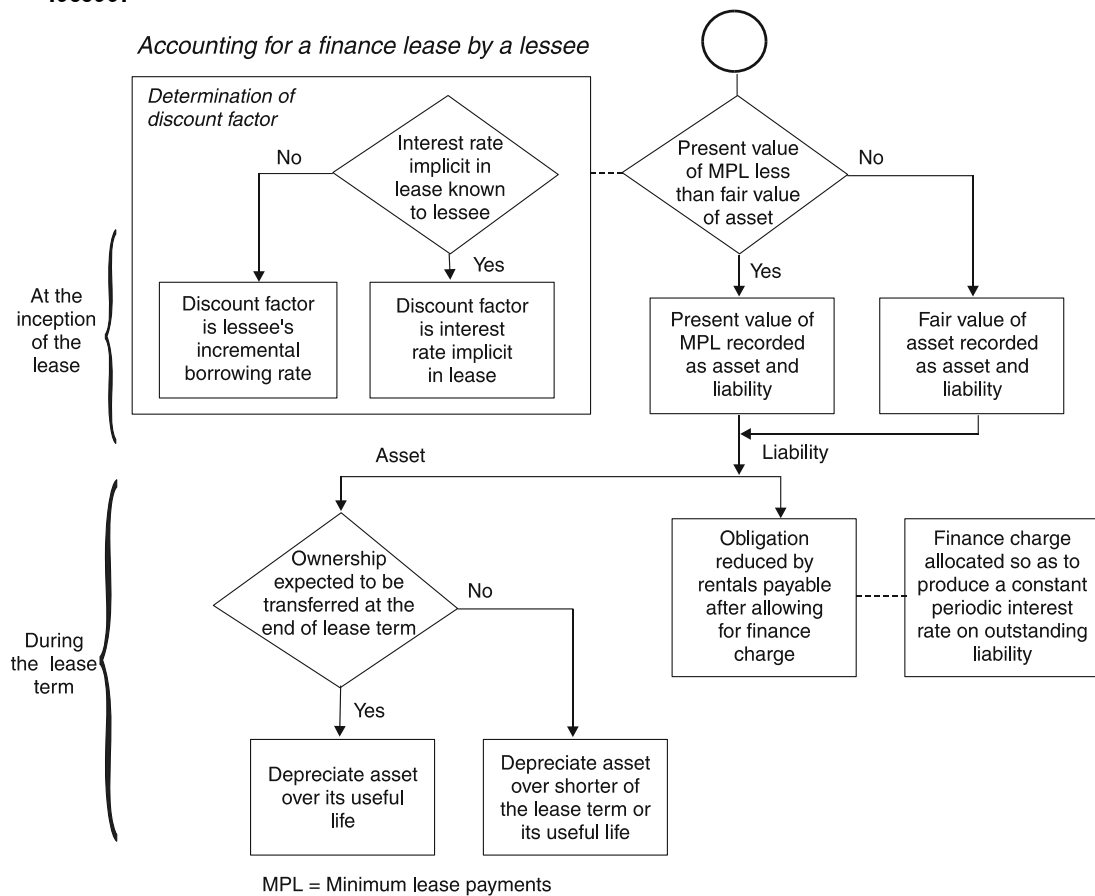
### 2.3.1 Lessees' disclosures for operating leases

The following should be disclosed. (Remember that these are in addition to requirements under IAS 32: see [Chapter 7](#).)

- The total of **future minimum lease payments** under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:
  - Not later than one year
  - Later than one year and not later than five years
  - Later than five years
- The total of **future minimum sublease payments** expected to be received under non-cancellable subleases at the year end
- Lease and sublease payments **recognised** as an expense for the period, with separate amounts for minimum lease payments, contingent rents, and sublease payments
- A **general description** of the lessee's significant leasing arrangements including, but not limited to, the following:
  - Basis on which contingent rent payments are determined
  - Existence and terms of renewal or purchase options and escalation clauses
  - Restrictions imposed by lease arrangements, such as those concerning dividends, additional debt, and further leasing

## 2.4 Section summary

The following diagram gives a useful summary of the **accounting treatment for a finance lease by a lessee**.



## 3 Lessor accounting

### FAST FORWARD

Lessor accounting:

- **Finance leases:** record the amount due from the lessor in the statement of financial position at the net investment in the lease, recognise finance income to give a constant periodic rate of return.
- **Operating leases:** record as long-term asset and depreciate over useful life, record income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

To a certain extent at least, the accounting treatment of leases adopted by lessors will be a **mirror image** of that used by lessees.

### 3.1 Finance leases

Several of the **definitions** given in Section 1 of this chapter are relevant to lessor accounting in particular and you should go back and look at them.

- Unguaranteed residual value
- Gross investment in the lease
- Unearned finance income
- Net investment in the lease



## 3.2 Accounting treatment

IAS 17 requires the **amount due from the lessee** under a finance lease to be recorded in the statement of financial position of a lessor as a receivable at the amount of the **net investment in the lease**.

The **recognition of finance income** under a finance lease should normally be based on a pattern to give a **constant periodic rate of return** on the lessor's net investment outstanding in respect of the finance lease in each period. In arriving at the constant periodic rate of return, a reasonable approximation may be made.

The lease payments (excluding costs for services) relating to the accounting period should be applied against the gross investment in the lease, so as to **reduce both the principal and the unearned finance income**.

The **estimated unguaranteed residual values** used to calculate the lessor's gross investment in a lease should be reviewed regularly. If there has been a reduction in the value, then the income allocation over the lease term must be revised. Any reduction in respect of amounts already accrued should be recognised immediately.

**Initial direct costs** incurred by lessors (eg commissions, legal fees and other costs that are directly attributable to negotiating and arranging a lease) are included in the initial measurement of the finance lease receivable.

### FAST FORWARD

You should also know how to deal with:

- **Manufacturer/dealer lessors**
- **Sale and leaseback transactions**

## 3.3 Manufacturer/dealer lessors

IAS 17 (revised) looks at the situation where manufacturers or dealers offer customers the choice of either buying or leasing an asset. There will be two types of income under such a lease.

- (a) Profit/loss equal to that from an **outright sale** (normal selling price less any discount)
- (b) **Finance income** over the lease term

IAS 17 requires the following treatment.

- (a) Recognise the **selling profit/loss** in income for the period as if it was an outright sale.
- (b) If **interest rates are artificially low**, restrict the selling profit to that which would apply had a commercial rate been applied.
- (c) Recognise **costs** incurred in connection with negotiating and arranging a lease as an **expense** when the **selling profit** is recognised (at the start of the lease term).

## 3.4 Lessors' disclosures for finance leases

The following should be disclosed (in addition to the requirements of IFRS 7).

- A **reconciliation** between the total gross investment in the lease at the year end, and the present value of minimum lease payments receivable at the year end. In addition, an entity should disclose the total gross investment in the lease and the present value of minimum lease payments receivable at the year end, for each of the following periods:
  - Not later than one year
  - Later than one year and not later than five years
  - Later than five years
- Unearned finance income
- The unguaranteed residual values accruing to the benefit of the lessor
- The accumulated allowance for uncollectible minimum lease payments receivable
- Contingent rents recognised in income
- A general description of the lessor's material leasing arrangements

## 3.5 Operating leases

### 3.5.1 Accounting treatment

An **asset** held for use in operating leases by a lessor should be recorded as a long-term asset and depreciated over its useful life. The basis for depreciation should be consistent with the lessor's policy on similar non-lease assets and follow the guidance in IAS 16.

**Income from an operating lease**, excluding charges for services such as insurance and maintenance, should be recognised on a **straight-line basis** over the period of the lease (even if the receipts are not on such a basis), unless another systematic and rational basis is more representative of the time pattern in which the benefit from the leased asset is receivable.

**Initial direct costs** incurred by lessors in negotiating and arranging an operating lease should be **added to the carrying amount** of the leased asset and recognised as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as lease income, ie capitalised and amortised over the lease term.

Lessors should refer to IAS 36 in order to determine whether a leased asset has become impaired.

A lessor who is a **manufacturer or dealer** should not recognise any selling profit on entering into an operating lease because it is not the equivalent of a sale.

### 3.5.2 Lessors' disclosures for operating leases

The following should be disclosed (on top of IAS 32 requirements).

- For each class of asset, the **gross carrying amount**, the accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses at the year end:
  - Depreciation recognised in income for the period
  - Impairment losses recognised in income for the period
  - Impairment losses reversed in income for the period
- The **future minimum lease payments** under non-cancellable operating leases in the aggregate and for each of the following periods:
  - Not later than one year
  - Later than one year and not later than five years
  - Later than five years
- Total **contingent rents** recognised in income
- A **general description** of the lessor's leasing arrangements

## 3.6 Sale and leaseback transactions

6/12

In a sale and leaseback transaction, an asset is sold by a vendor and then the same asset is **leased back** to the same vendor. The lease payment and sale price are normally interdependent because they are negotiated as part of the same package. The accounting treatment for the lessee or seller should be as follows, depending on the type of lease involved.

- (a) In a sale and leaseback transaction which results in a **finance lease**, any apparent profit or loss (that is, the difference between the sale price and the previous carrying value) should be deferred and amortised in the financial statements of the seller/lessee over the lease term. It should not be recognised as income immediately.
- (b) If the leaseback is an **operating lease**:
  - (i) Any profit or loss should be recognised immediately, provided it is clear that the transaction is established at a **fair value**.
  - (ii) Where the **sale price is below fair value**, any profit or loss should be recognised immediately except that if the apparent loss is compensated by future lease payments at below market price it should to that extent be deferred and amortised over the period for which the asset is expected to be used.

- (iii) If the **sale price is above fair value**, the excess over fair value should be deferred and amortised over the period over which the asset is expected to be used.

In addition, for an operating lease where the fair value of the asset at the time of the sale is less than the **carrying amount**, the loss (carrying value less fair value) should be recognised immediately.

The buyer or lessor should account for a sale and leaseback in the **same way as other leases**.

The **disclosure requirements** for both lessees and lessors should force disclosure of sale and leaseback transactions. IAS 1 should be considered.

## 4 Criticism and proposed changes

### FAST FORWARD

IAS 17 (revised) closed many loopholes, but some still argue that it is **open to manipulation**. An Exposure Draft has been issued to remedy some of the abuses.

IAS 17 has not been without its critics. The original standard **closed many loopholes** in the treatment of leases, but it has been open to abuse and manipulation. A great deal of this topic is tied up in the off balance sheet finance and creative accounting debate discussed in [Chapter 18](#).

### 4.1 Treatment of operating leases unsatisfactory?

The different accounting treatment of finance and operating leases has been **criticised** for a number of reasons.

- (a) Many users of financial statements believe that **all lease contracts give rise to assets and liabilities that should be recognised in the financial statements of lessees**. Therefore, these users routinely adjust the recognised amounts in the statement of financial position in an attempt to assess the effect of the assets and liabilities resulting from operating lease contracts.
- (b) The split between finance leases and operating leases can result in **similar transactions being accounted for very differently**, reducing comparability for users of financial statements.
- (c) The difference in the accounting treatment of finance leases and operating leases also provides **opportunities to structure transactions so as to achieve a particular lease classification**.

It is also argued that the current accounting treatment of operating leases is **inconsistent with the definition of assets and liabilities in the IASB's Conceptual Framework**. An operating lease contract confers a valuable right to use a leased item. This right meets the *Conceptual Framework's* definition of an asset, and the liability of the lessee to pay rentals meets the *Conceptual Framework's* definition of a liability. However, the right and obligation are not recognised for operating leases.

Lease accounting is **scoped out of IAS 32, IAS 39 and IFRS 9**, which means that there are considerable differences in the treatment of leases and other contractual arrangements.

### 4.2 IASB Exposure Draft

As mentioned earlier, leasing is the subject of a wider IASB project. Many believe that the current lease accounting is too reliant on bright lines and subjective judgements that may result in economically similar transactions being accounted for differently. The IASB and FASB published a Discussion Paper in March 2009 which focused on lessee accounting and have since decided to address both lessee and lessor accounting. This has reached the stage of an Exposure Draft *Leases*, issued in August 2010, which, in effect, requires all leases to be shown on the statement of financial position. The proposals would result in a consistent approach to lease accounting for both lessees and lessors – a 'right-of-use' approach. Among other changes, this approach would result in the liability for payments arising under the lease contract and the right to use the underlying asset being included in the lessee's statement of financial position, thus providing more complete and useful information to investors and other users of financial statements.

### 4.2.1 Scope

The scope of the proposed standard is similar to that of existing lease accounting standards; therefore, most contracts currently accounted for as leases would be subject to the new guidance as well. In addition, the ED includes conditions for use in determining whether an arrangement contains a lease.

### 4.2.2 Main changes

These changes affect both lessees and lessors unless otherwise stated:

- (a) The current IAS 17 **model of classification** of leases would **cease** to exist.
- (b) Lessees would **no longer be permitted to treat leases as 'off-balance sheet' financing**, but instead would be required to recognise an asset and liability for all leases within the scope of the proposed standard.
- (c) For leases **currently classified as operating leases, rent expense would be replaced with amortisation expense and interest expense**. Total expense would be recognised earlier in the lease term.
- (d) **The lease liability** would include **estimates of contingent rentals**, residual value guarantees, and term option penalties. An **expected outcome** approach would be used.
- (e) **Rentals during renewal periods** would be included as **part of the lease liability** on the basis of the longest possible lease term that is more likely to occur than not.
- (f) If the facts or circumstances indicate that there will be a **significant change** in lease payments and renewal periods, then **the estimates of these must be revised**.
- (g) The proposed standard has **two accounting models for lessors**:
  - (i) **Performance obligation approach**. This is used by lessors who retain exposure to significant risks or benefits **associated with the underlying asset**.
  - (ii) **Derecognition approach**. This is used by lessors who do not retain exposure to significant risks or benefits associated with the underlying asset.

### 4.2.3 Current status

The IASB and FASB expect to re-exposure their proposals in the fourth quarter of 2012.

## 4.3 Unguaranteed residual value

This was defined in Section 1 above. As we have already seen, to qualify as a finance lease the risks and rewards of ownership must be transferred to the lessee. One reward of ownership is any **residual value** in the asset at the end of the primary period. If the asset is returned to the lessor then it is he who receives this reward of ownership, not the lessee. This might prevent the lease from being a finance lease if this reward is significant (IAS 17 allows insubstantial ownership risks and rewards not to pass).

IAS 17 does not state **at what point** it should normally be presumed that a transfer of substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership has occurred. To judge the issue it is necessary to compare the present value of the minimum lease payments against the fair value of the leased assets. This is an application of **discounting principles** to financial statements. The discounting equation is:

$$\begin{array}{rcccl} \text{Present value of} & & \text{Present value of} & & \text{Fair value of} \\ \text{minimum lease} & & \text{unguaranteed} & & \text{leased asset} \\ \text{payment} & + & \text{residual amount} & = & \\ & & \text{accruing to lessor} & & \end{array}$$

*Note.* Any **guaranteed residual amount** accruing to the lessor will be included in the minimum lease payments.

You should now be able to see the **scope for manipulation** involving lease classification. Whether or not a lease is classified as a finance lease can hinge on the size of the unguaranteed residual amount due to the lessor, and that figure will only be an estimate. A lessor might be persuaded to estimate a larger residual amount than he would otherwise have done and cause the lease to fail the test on present value of lease payments approximating to the asset's fair value, rather than lose the business.

#### 4.4 Example: Unguaranteed residual value

A company enters into two leasing agreements. Let us assume that it has a 90% line to estimate whether the PV of the lease payments are 'substantially' equal to the fair value of the asset.

|  | <i>Lease A</i> | <i>Lease B</i> |
|--|----------------|----------------|
|  | \$'000         | \$'000         |
| Fair value of asset                      | 210            | 120            |
| Estimated residual value (due to lessor) | 21             | 30             |
| Minimum lease payments                   | 238            | 108            |

How should each lease be classified?

#### Solution

You should note that it is unnecessary to perform any calculations for discounting in this example.

**Lease A:** it is obvious that the present value of the unguaranteed lease payments is less than \$21,000, and therefore less than 10% of the fair value of the asset. This means that the present value of the minimum lease payments is over 90% of the fair value of the asset. Lease A is therefore a finance lease.

**Lease B:** the present value of the minimum lease payments is obviously less than \$108,000 and therefore less than 90% of the fair value of the asset. Lease B is therefore an operating lease.

#### 4.5 Implicit interest rate

It will often be the case that the lessee does not know the unguaranteed residual value placed on the asset by the lessor and he is therefore unaware of the interest rate implicit in the lease. In such a case, IAS 17 allows the lessee to provide his **own estimate**, to calculate the implicit interest rate and perform the test comparing the PV of the lease payments with fair value of the asset. It is obviously very easy to estimate a residual amount which fails the test. This situation would also lead to different results for the lessee and the lessor.

## Chapter Roundup

- **IAS 17** covers the accounting under lease transactions for both lessees and lessors.
- There are **two forms of lease**:
  - Finance leases
  - Operating leases
- The definition of a **finance lease** is very important: it is a lease that transfers all the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset, regardless of whether legal title passes.
- Make sure you learn these **important definitions** from IAS 17:
  - Minimum lease payments
  - Interest rate implicit in the lease
  - Guaranteed/unguaranteed residual values
  - Gross net investments in the lease
- **Lessee accounting**:
  - **Finance leases**: record an asset in the statement of financial position and a liability to pay for it (fair value or PV of minimum lease payments), apportion the finance charge to give a constant periodic rate of return.
  - **Operating leases**: write off rentals on a straight line basis.
- **Lessor accounting**:
  - **Finance leases**: record the amount due from the lessor in the statement of financial position at the net investment in the lease, recognise finance income to give a constant periodic rate of return.
  - **Operating leases**: record as long-term asset and depreciate over useful life, record income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.
- You should also know how to deal with:
  - **Manufacturer/dealer lessors**
  - **Sale and leaseback transactions**
- IAS 17 (revised) closed many loopholes, but some still argue that it is **open to manipulation**. An Exposure Draft has been issued to remedy some of the abuses.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 Distinguish between a finance lease and an operating lease.
- 2 List the disclosure requirements for lessees under finance leases.
- 3 What are the arguments both for and against lessees capitalising leased assets?
- 4 How should manufacturer or dealer lessors account for finance leases?
- 5 Why is the treatment of operating leases considered to be unsatisfactory?

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1
  - (a) A finance lease transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incident to ownership of an asset. Title may or may not be transferred eventually.
  - (b) An operating lease is a lease other than a finance lease.
- 2 See Paragraph 2.3.1
- 3 *For*
  - (a) Substance over form*Against*
  - (a) Legal position
  - (b) Complexity
  - (c) Subjectivity
  - (d) Presentation
- 4
  - (a) Recognise the selling profit/loss in income for the period as if it were an outright sale.
  - (b) If interest rates are artificially low, restrict the selling price to that applying on a commercial rate of interest.
  - (c) Recognise indirect costs as an expense at the lease's start.
- 5 See Paragraph 4.1.

Now try the question below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level       | Marks | Time    |
|--------|-------------|-------|---------|
| Q15    | Examination | 25    | 45 mins |





# Group financial statements



# 12

## Revision of basic groups

| Topic list  | Syllabus reference |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 IFRS 3 (revised): main points                       | D1                 |
| 2 IFRS 10 Consolidated financial statements           | D1                 |
| 3 IFRS 3 (revised), IFRS 13 and fair values           | D1                 |
| 4 IAS 28 Investments in associates and joint ventures | D1                 |
| 5 IFRS 12 Disclosure of interests in other entities   | D1                 |

### Introduction

Basic groups were covered in your earlier studies. In Paper P2, the emphasis is on the **more complex** aspects of consolidation. In this chapter, you will revise briefly the main principles of consolidation. If you have problems, then you should go back to your earlier study material and revise this topic more thoroughly. IFRS 3 and IAS 27 were revised in 2008. In June 2011, IFRSs 10 to 13 made further significant changes.

*Note.* Throughout Part C, all undertakings are limited liability companies, unless otherwise stated. However, you should bear in mind that IFRS 10 includes unincorporated entities such as partnerships within the definition of subsidiary.

IAS 28 requires that **consolidated accounts** should be extended so that they include the share of earnings or losses of companies which are associated companies or joint ventures. You have covered associates in your earlier studies, but it is an important standard and so is covered in full again here.

**Note.** The term 'statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income' is used for what used to be, and still may be, termed the 'statement of comprehensive income'. See [Chapter 18](#) for the amendment to IAS 1 which brought this term into use.

## Study guide

|           |  | Intellectual level |
|-----------|--|--------------------|
| <b>D1</b> | <b>Group accounting including statement of cash flows</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Apply the method of accounting for business combinations including complex group structures  | 3                  |
| (b)       | Apply the principles relating to the cost of a business combination  | 3                  |
| (c)       | Apply the recognition and measurement criteria for identifiable acquired assets and liabilities and goodwill, including step acquisitions  | 3                  |
| (d)       | Apply and discuss the criteria used to identify a subsidiary and associate   | 3                  |
| (e)       | Determine and apply appropriate procedures to be used in preparing group financial statements  | 3                  |
| (f)       | Identify and outline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The circumstances in which a group is required to prepare consolidated financial statements</li> <li>- The circumstances when a group may claim an exemption from the preparation of consolidated financial statements</li> <li>- Why directors may not wish to consolidate a subsidiary and where this is permitted</li> </ul> | 2                  |
| (f)       | Apply the equity method of accounting for associates and joint ventures  | 3                  |

## Exam guide

You are unlikely to be examined just on the basic principles. However, you will gain marks for knowing the basic principles in a more complex consolidation.

### 1 IFRS 3 (revised): main points

12/08, 6/11, 6/12



One of the competences you need to fulfil Objective 10 of the Practical Experience Requirement (PER) is to record and understand financial transactions for single companies and combined entities. You can apply the knowledge you obtain from this chapter, on combined entities, to demonstrate this competence.

In traditional accounting terminology, a **group of companies** consists of a **parent company** and one or more **subsidiary companies** which are controlled by the parent company. We will be looking at six accounting standards in this and the next few chapters.

- IFRS 3 (revised) Business combinations (goodwill aspects are covered in an earlier chapter)
- IFRS 13 Fair value measurement
- IFRS 10 Consolidated financial statements
- IAS 28 Investments in associates and joint ventures
- IFRS 11 Joint arrangements
- IFRS 12 Disclosure of interests in other entities

In May 2011 the IASB issued a set of five new or revised standards, IAS 28 and IFRSs 10, 11, 12 and 13. These amend and clarify definitions and concepts but do not make changes to the accounting processes involved in group accounting.

You should have studied IFRS 3 (revised) *Business combinations* for Paper F7. (This standard was not changed in May 2011.). Here is a re-cap.

## 1.1 Objective of IFRS 3 (revised)

The objective of IFRS 3 (revised) is to improve the relevance, reliability and comparability of the information that a reporting entity provides in its financial statements about a business combination and its effects. To accomplish that, IFRS 3 (revised) establishes principles and requirements for how the acquirer:

- (a) Recognises and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed and any non-controlling interest in the acquiree
- (b) Recognises and measures the goodwill acquired in the business combination or a gain from a bargain purchase
- (c) Determines what information to disclose to enable users of the financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination

## 1.2 Definitions

### Exam focus point

All the definitions relating to group accounts are extremely important. You must **learn them** and **understand** their meaning and application.

### FAST FORWARD

Go back to your earlier study material and practise more questions if you are unsure of basic consolidation techniques.

**Definitions** are very important when looking at group accounts.

Some of these definitions are from IAS 28 as well as IFRS 3 (revised) and IFRS 10. Some are new, and some you will have met before.

### Key terms

**Control.** The power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities. (*IFRS 3 (revised), IFRS 10,*)

**Subsidiary.** An entity that is controlled by another entity (known as the parent). (*IFRS 10*)

**Parent.** An entity that has one or more subsidiaries. (*IFRS 10*)

**Group.** A parent and all its subsidiaries. (*IFRS 10*)

**Associate.** An entity, including an unincorporated entity such as a partnership, in which an investor has significant influence and which is neither a subsidiary nor an interest in a joint venture. (*IAS 28*)

**Significant influence** is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of the investee but is not control or joint control over those policies. (*IAS 28*)

**Joint arrangement.** An arrangement of which two or more parties have **joint control**. (*IAS 28*)

**Joint control.** The **contractually agreed sharing of control** of an arrangement, which exists only when decisions about the relevant activities require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control. (*IAS 28*)

**Joint venture.** A joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control (the joint venturers) of the arrangement have **rights to the net assets** of the arrangement. (*IAS 28, IFRS 11*)

**Acquiree.** The business or businesses that the **acquirer** obtains control of in a **business combination** (*IFRS 3 (revised)*)

**Acquirer.** The entity that obtains control of the **acquiree** (*IFRS 3 (revised)*)

**Business combination.** A transaction or other event in which an **acquirer** obtains control of one or more **businesses**. (*IFRS 3 (revised)*)

**Contingent consideration.** Usually, an obligation of the **acquirer** to transfer additional assets or **equity** (*IFRS 3 (revised)*) **interests** to the former owners of an **acquiree** as part of the exchange for **control** of the **acquiree** if specified future events occur or conditions are met. (*IFRS 3 (revised)*)

**Equity interests.** Broadly used in IFRS 3 (revised) to mean ownership interests.

**Fair value.** The price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market at the measurement date. (*IFRS 13*)

**Non-controlling interest.** The equity in a subsidiary not attributable, directly or indirectly, to a parent. (*IFRS 3 (revised)*)

Before discussing IFRS 3 (revised) in detail, we can summarise the different types of investment *and* the required accounting for them as follows.

| Investment                                   | Criteria                           | Required treatment in group accounts      |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Subsidiary</b>                            | Control                            | Full consolidation                        |
| <b>Associate</b>                             | Significant influence              | Equity accounting                         |
| <b>Joint venture</b>                         | Contractual arrangement            | Equity accounting                         |
| <b>Investment</b> which is none of the above | Asset held for accretion of wealth | As for single company accounts per IFRS 9 |

## 1.3 Identifying a business combination

IFRS 3 (revised) requires entities to determine whether a transaction or other event is a business combination by applying the definition in the IFRS.

## 1.4 The acquisition method

Entities must account for each business combination by applying the **acquisition method**. This requires:

- Identifying the acquirer.** This is generally the party that obtains control.
- Determining the acquisition date.** This is generally the date the consideration is legally transferred, but it may be another date if control is obtained on that date.
- Recognising and measuring the **identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed** and any non-controlling interest in the acquiree. (See below.)
- Recognising and measuring goodwill or a gain from a bargain purchase (see [Chapter 4](#).)

The recognition and measurement of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed other than non-controlling interest is dealt with in Section 3. Below we deal with the cost of the acquisition, the consideration transferred, the goodwill and the non-controlling interest.

## 1.5 Acquisition-related costs

Under IFRS 3 (revised) **costs relating to the acquisition must be recognised as an expense** at the time of the acquisition. They are not regarded as an asset. (Costs of issuing debt or equity are to be accounted for under the rules of IFRS 9.)

## 1.6 Contingent consideration

### FAST FORWARD

IFRS 3 (revised) **requires recognition of contingent consideration, measured at fair value, at the acquisition date.**

IFRS 3 (revised) defines contingent consideration as:

Usually, an obligation of the acquirer to transfer additional assets or equity interests to the former owners of an acquiree as part of the exchange for control of the acquiree if specified future events occur or conditions are met. However, contingent consideration also may give the acquirer the right to the return of previously transferred consideration if specified conditions are met.

### 1.6.1 IFRS 3

IFRS 3 (revised) recognises that, by entering into an acquisition, the acquirer becomes obliged to make additional payments. Not recognising that obligation means that the consideration recognised at the acquisition date is not fairly stated.

IFRS 3 (revised) **requires recognition of contingent consideration, measured at fair value, at the acquisition date**. This is, arguably, consistent with how other forms of consideration are fair valued.

The acquirer may be required to pay contingent consideration in the form of equity or of a debt instrument or cash. Debt instruments are presented in accordance with IAS 32. Contingent consideration may occasionally be an asset, for example if the consideration has already been transferred and the acquirer has the right to the return of part of it, an asset may occasionally be recognised in respect of that right.

### 1.6.2 Post-acquisition changes in the fair value of the contingent consideration

The treatment depends on the circumstances:

- (a) If the change in fair value is due to additional information obtained that affects the position at the acquisition date, goodwill should be re-measured.
- (b) If the change is due to events which took place after the acquisition date, for example, meeting earnings targets:
  - (i) Account for under IFRS 9 if the consideration is in the form of a financial instrument, for example loan notes.
  - (ii) Account for under IAS 37 if the consideration is in the form of cash.
  - (iii) An equity instrument is not remeasured.

## 1.7 Goodwill and the non-controlling interest

### 1.7.1 IFRS 3 (revised) methods – an introduction

The revised IFRS 3 views the group as an economic entity. This means that it treats all providers of equity – including non-controlling interests – as shareholders in the group, even if they are not shareholders of the parent. Thus goodwill will arise on the non-controlling interest. We now need to consider how IFRS 3 (revised) sets out the calculation for goodwill.

### 1.7.2 IFRS 3 (revised) goodwill calculation

In words, IFRS 3 (revised) states:

Consideration paid by parent + fair value of non-controlling interest – fair value of the subsidiary's net identifiable assets = consolidated goodwill

### 1.7.3 BPP proforma goodwill calculation

The proforma goodwill calculation should be set out like this:

|  | \$       | \$                     |
|--|----------|------------------------|
| Consideration transferred              |          | X                      |
| Non-controlling interests              |          | X                      |
| Net assets acquired as represented by: |          |                        |
| Ordinary share capital                 | X        |                        |
| Share premium                          | X        |                        |
| Retained earnings on acquisition       | <u>X</u> |                        |
| Goodwill                               |          | <u>(X)</u><br><u>X</u> |

### 1.7.4 Valuing non-controlling interest at acquisition

#### FAST FORWARD

The non-controlling interest may be valued **either at fair value or at the non-controlling interest's proportionate share of the acquiree's identifiable net assets.**

The non-controlling interest now forms part of the calculation of goodwill. The question now arises as to how it should be valued.

The 'economic entity' principle (see 1.7.1) suggests that the non-controlling interest should be valued at fair value. In fact, IFRS 3 (revised) gives a **choice**:

For each business combination, the acquirer shall measure any non-controlling interest in the acquiree **either at fair value or at the non-controlling interest's proportionate share of the acquiree's identifiable net assets.** (*IFRS 3 (revised)*)

IFRS 3 (revised) revised suggests that the closest approximation to fair value will be the market price of the shares held by the non-controlling shareholders just before the acquisition by the parent.

Non-controlling interest at fair value will be different from non-controlling interest at proportionate share of the acquiree's net assets. The difference is goodwill attributable to non-controlling interest, which may be, but often is not, proportionate to goodwill attributable to the parent.

#### Exam focus point

The ACCA may refer to valuation at the non-controlling interest's proportionate share of the acquiree's identifiable net assets as the 'old' or 'partial goodwill' method and to valuation at (full) fair value as the 'new' or 'full goodwill' method.

### 1.7.5 Goodwill calculation: simple examples

Now we will look at two simple goodwill calculations: the revised IFRS 3 (revised) 'old' method (proportion of net assets) and the revised IFRS 3 (revised) 'new' method (fair (or full) value).

#### (a) Revised IFRS 3 (revised) 'old' method

On 31 December 20X8, Penn acquired four million of the five million \$1 ordinary shares of Sylvania, paying \$10m in cash. On that date, the fair value of Sylvania's net assets was \$7.5m.

It is the group's policy to value the non-controlling interest at its proportionate share of the fair value of the subsidiary's identifiable net assets.

Calculate goodwill on the acquisition.



**Answer**

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
|   | \$'000         |
| Consideration transferred                             | 10,000         |
| Non-controlling interest: $20\% \times \$7.5\text{m}$ | <u>1,500</u>   |
|   | 11,500         |
| Net assets acquired                                   | <u>(7,500)</u> |
| Goodwill  | <u>4,000</u>   |

**(b) Revised IFRS 3 (revised) 'new' method**

On 31 December 20X8, Penn acquired four million of the five million \$1 ordinary shares of Sylvania, paying \$10m in cash. On that date, the fair value of Sylvania's net assets was \$7.5m.

It is the group's policy to value the non-controlling interest at fair value. The market price of the shares held by the non-controlling shareholders just before the acquisition was \$2.00

Calculate goodwill on the acquisition.

**Answer**

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
|   | \$'000         |
| Consideration transferred                     | 10,000         |
| Non-controlling interest $1\text{m} \times 2$ | <u>2,000</u>   |
|   |                |
| Net assets acquired                           | <u>(7,500)</u> |
| Goodwill                                      | <u>4,500</u>   |

**1.7.6 Non-controlling interest at the year end ('new' method)**

Where the option is used to value non-controlling interest at fair value, this applies only to **non-controlling interest at acquisition**. At the year end, the non-controlling interest will have increased by its share of the subsidiary's post-acquisition retained earnings.

The non-controlling interest is measured at its fair value, measured on the basis of a quoted price in an active market for equity shares not held by the acquirer or, if this is not available, by using another valuation technique.

The workings will be the same as for the proportionate method.

This is illustrated in the following worked example.

**1.7.7 Example: Goodwill and non-controlling interest**

P acquired 75% of the shares in S on 1 January 2007 when S had retained earnings of \$15,000. The market price of S's shares at the date of acquisition was \$1.60. P values non-controlling interest at fair value at the date of acquisition. Goodwill is not impaired.

The statements of financial position of P and S at 31 December 20X7 were as follows.

|                               | P              | S             |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
|                               | \$             | \$            |
| Property, plant and equipment | 60,000         | 50,000        |
| Shares in S                   | 68,000         | —             |
|                               | <u>128,000</u> | <u>50,000</u> |
| Current assets                | 52,000         | 35,000        |
|                               | <u>180,000</u> | <u>85,000</u> |
| Share capital – \$1 shares    | 100,000        | 50,000        |
| Retained earnings             | 70,000         | 25,000        |
|                               | <u>170,000</u> | <u>75,000</u> |
| Current liabilities           | 10,000         | 10,000        |
|                               | <u>180,000</u> | <u>85,000</u> |

Prepare the consolidated statement of financial position of the P Group.

## Solution

### P GROUP CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

|  | \$             |
|--|----------------|
| <i>Assets</i>                                  |                |
| Property plant and equipment (60,000 + 50,000) | 110,000        |
| Goodwill (W1)                                  | 23,000         |
| Current assets (52,000 + 35,000)               | 87,000         |
| Total assets                                   | <u>220,000</u> |
| <i>Equity and liabilities</i>                  |                |
| Equity attributable to the owners of P         |                |
| Share capital                                  | 100,000        |
| Retained earnings (W2)                         | 77,500         |
|  | <u>177,500</u> |
| Non-controlling interest (W3)                  | 22,500         |
| Total equity                                   | <u>200,000</u> |
| Current liabilities (10,000 + 10,000)          | 20,000         |
|  | <u>220,000</u> |

### Workings

|    |  |               |                 |
|----|--|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. | <i>Goodwill</i>  |               | \$              |
|    | Consideration transferred  |               | 68,000          |
|    | Non-controlling interest at acquisition (12,500 shares @ \$1.60) |               | 20,000          |
|    | Net assets of S at acquisition (50,000 + 15,000)                 |               | <u>(65,000)</u> |
|    | Goodwill   |               | <u>23,000</u>   |
| 2. | <i>Retained earnings</i>   |               |                 |
|    |  | <i>P</i>      | <i>S</i>        |
|    |  | \$            | \$              |
|    | Per statement of financial position                              | 70,000        | 25,000          |
|    | Less pre- acquisition  |               | <u>(15,000)</u> |
|    |  |               | 10,000          |
|    | Group share of S (10,000 × 75%)                                  | <u>7,500</u>  |                 |
|    | Group retained earnings  | <u>77,500</u> |                 |
| 3. | <i>Non-controlling interest at year end</i>                      |               | \$              |
|    | NCI at acquisition (W1)  |               | 20,000          |
|    | NCI share of S's post acquisition reserves (25% × 10,000(W2))    |               | 2,500           |
|    |  |               | <u>22,500</u>   |

### 1.7.8 Effect on non-controlling interest of fair value

You can see from the above example that the use of the fair value option increases goodwill and non-controlling interest by the same amount. That amount represents goodwill attributable to the shares held by non-controlling shareholders. It is not necessarily proportionate to the goodwill attributed to the parent. The parent may have paid more to acquire a controlling interest. If non-controlling interest was valued under the proportionate method (share of net assets), goodwill and non-controlling interest in the example above would be as follows.

|    |  |  |                 |
|----|--|--|-----------------|
| W1 | <i>Goodwill</i>                                    |  | \$              |
|    | Considered transferred                             |  | 68,000          |
|    | Non-controlling interest ((50,000 + 15,000) × 25%) |  | 16,250          |
|    | Net assets of S at acquisition (50,000 + 15,000)   |  | <u>(65,000)</u> |
|    |  |  | <u>19,250</u>   |

### W3 Non-controlling interest at year end

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
|  | \$            |
| NCI at acquisition (W1)  | 16,250        |
| NCI share of S's post acquisition retained earnings (25% × 10,000) | 2,500         |
|  | <u>18,750</u> |

Compare these with goodwill and non-controlling interest in the solution above and you will see that both have been reduced by \$3,750 – the goodwill attributable to the non-controlling interest. So whether non-controlling interest is valued at share of net assets or at fair value, the statement of financial position will still balance.

### 1.7.9 Your P2 exam

The ACCA has stated that **both the 'partial goodwill' and the 'full goodwill' methods are examinable**. Specifically, the advice is as follows:

ACCA will require students to know both methods. The wording is as follows.

#### *Full goodwill*

'It is the group policy to value the non-controlling interest at full (or fair) value.'

#### *Partial goodwill*

'It is the group policy to value the non-controlling interest at its proportionate share of the (fair value of the) subsidiary's identifiable net assets.'

Questions can ask for both methods.

There are a number of ways of presenting the information to test the new method:

- (i) As above, the subsidiary's share price just before the acquisition could be given and then used to value the non-controlling interest. It would then be a matter of multiplying the share price by the number of shares held by the non-controlling interests. (**Note:** the parent is likely to have paid more than the subsidiary's pre acquisition share price in order to gain control.)
- (ii) The question could simply state that the directors valued the non-controlling interest at the date of acquisition at \$2 million
- (iii) An alternative approach would be to give (in the question) the value of the goodwill attributable to the non-controlling interest. In this case the NCI's goodwill would be added to the parent's goodwill (calculated by the traditional method) and to the carrying amount of the non-controlling interest itself.

## 1.8 Other aspects of group accounting

**Note.** Much of this will be revision from your earlier studies, but there are some significant changes to concepts and definitions introduced by IFRSs 10 and 11 and the revised IAS 28.

### 1.8.1 Investment in subsidiaries

The important point here is **control**. In most cases, this will involve the parent company owning a majority of the ordinary shares in the subsidiary (to which normal voting rights are attached). There are circumstances, however, when the parent may own only a minority of the voting power in the subsidiary, *but* the parent still has control.

IFRS 10 *Consolidated financial statements*, issued in May 2011, retains **control** as the key concept underlying the parent/subsidiary relationship but it has broadened the definition and clarified its application. This will be covered in more detail in Section 2 below.

IFRS 10 states that an investor **controls** an investee if and only if it has all of the following.

- (i) **Power** over the investee
- (ii) Exposure, or rights, to **variable returns** from its involvement with the investee (see Section 2), and

- (iii) The **ability to use its power** over the investee to affect the amount of the investor's returns (see Section 2).

**Exam focus point**

You should learn the contents of the above paragraph as you may be asked to apply them in the exam.

## Accounting treatment in group accounts

IFRS 10 requires a parent to present consolidated financial statements, in which the accounts of the parent and subsidiary (or subsidiaries) are combined and presented **as a single entity**.

### 1.8.2 Investments in associates

This type of investment is something less than a subsidiary, but more than a simple investment (nor is it a joint venture). The key criterion here is **significant influence**. This is defined as the 'power to participate', but *not* to 'control' (which would make the investment a subsidiary).

Significant influence can be determined by the holding of voting rights (usually attached to shares) in the entity. IAS 28 states that if an investor holds **20% or more** of the voting power of the investee, it can be presumed that the investor has significant influence over the investee, *unless* it can be clearly shown that this is not the case.

Significant influence can be presumed *not* to exist if the investor holds **less than 20%** of the voting power of the investee, unless it can be demonstrated otherwise.

The **existence of significant influence** is evidenced in one or more of the following ways.

- (a) Representation on the **board of directors** (or equivalent) of the investee
- (b) Participation in the **policy making process**
- (c) **Material transactions** between investor and investee
- (d) Interchange of **management personnel**
- (e) Provision of **essential technical information**

## Accounting treatment in group accounts

IAS 28 requires the use of the **equity method** of accounting for investments in associates. This method will be explained in detail in Section 4.

### 1.8.3 Accounting for investments in joint arrangements

IFRS 11 classes joint arrangements as either **joint operations** or **joint ventures**. The classification of a joint arrangement as a joint operation or a joint venture depends upon the rights and obligations of the parties to the arrangement.

The detail of how to distinguish between joint operations and joint ventures will be considered in Section 5.

## Accounting treatment in group accounts

IFRS 11 requires that a joint operator recognises line-by-line the following in relation to its interest in a **joint operation**:

- Its assets, including its share of any jointly held assets
- Its liabilities, including its share of any jointly incurred liabilities
- Its revenue from the sale of its share of the output arising from the joint operation
- Its share of the revenue from the sale of the output by the joint operation, and
- Its expenses, including its share of any expenses incurred jointly.

This treatment is applicable in both the separate and consolidated financial statements of the joint operator.

In its consolidated financial statements, IFRS 11 requires that a joint venturer recognises its interest in a **joint venture** as an investment and accounts for that investment using the equity method in accordance with IAS 28 *Investments in associates and joint ventures* unless the entity is exempted from applying the equity method (see Section 4.2 which is also applicable to joint ventures).

In its separate financial statements, a joint venturer should account for its interest in a joint venture in accordance with IAS 27 (2011) *Separate financial statements*, namely:

- At cost, or
- In accordance with IFRS 9 *Financial instruments*

#### 1.8.4 Other investments

Investments which do not meet the definitions of any of the above should be accounted for according to IFRS 9 *Financial instruments*.

## 2 IFRS 10 Consolidated financial statements

### FAST FORWARD

IFRS 10 *Consolidated financial statements* requires a parent to present **consolidated** financial statements.

### 2.1 Introduction

#### Key term

**Consolidated financial statements.** The financial statements of a group presented as those of a single economic entity. (IFRS 10)

When a parent issues consolidated financial statements, it should consolidate **all subsidiaries**, both foreign and domestic. The first step in any consolidation is to identify the subsidiaries using the definition as set out in paragraph 1.8.1 above.

#### Exam focus point

You should make sure that you understand the various ways in which control can arise as this is something that you may be asked to discuss in the context of a scenario in the exam.

#### 2.1.1 Power

**Power** is defined as **existing rights that give the current ability to direct the relevant activities of the investee**. There is no requirement for that power to have been exercised.

Relevant activities may include:

- Selling and purchasing goods or services
- Managing financial assets
- Selecting, acquiring and disposing of assets
- Researching and developing new products and processes
- Determining a funding structure or obtaining funding.

In some cases assessing power is straightforward, for example, where power is obtained directly and solely from having the majority of voting rights or potential voting rights, and as a result the ability to direct relevant activities.

In other cases, assessment is more complex and more than one factor must be considered. IFRS 10 gives the following examples of **rights**, other than voting or potential voting rights, which individually, or alone, can give an investor power.

- Rights to appoint, reassign or remove key management personnel who can direct the relevant activities
- Rights to appoint or remove another entity that directs the relevant activities
- Rights to direct the investee to enter into, or veto changes to transactions for the benefit of the investor
- Other rights, such as those specified in a management contract.

IFRS 10 suggests that the **ability** rather than contractual right to achieve the above may also indicate that an investor has power over an investee.

An investor can have power over an investee even where other entities have significant influence or other ability to participate in the direction of relevant activities.

### 2.1.2 Returns

An investor must have exposure, or rights, to **variable returns** from its involvement with the investee in order to establish control.

This is the case where the investor's returns from its involvement have the potential to vary as a result of the investee's performance.

Returns may include:

- Dividends
- Remuneration for servicing an investee's assets or liabilities
- Fees and exposure to loss from providing credit support
- Returns as a result of achieving synergies or economies of scale through an investor combining use of their assets with use of the investee's assets

### 2.1.3 Link between power and returns

In order to establish control, an investor must be able to use its power to affect its returns from its involvement with the investee. This is the case even where the investor delegates its decision making powers to an agent.

## 2.2 Exemption from preparing group accounts

A parent **need not present** consolidated financial statements if and only if all of the following hold:

- The parent is itself a **wholly-owned subsidiary** or it is a **partially owned subsidiary** of another entity and its other owners, including those not otherwise entitled to vote, have been informed about, and do not object to, the parent not presenting consolidated financial statements.
- Its debt or equity instruments are **not publicly traded**.
- It is **not in the process of issuing securities** in public securities markets.
- The **ultimate or intermediate parent** publishes consolidated financial statements that comply with International Financial Reporting Standards.

A parent that does not present consolidated financial statements must comply with the IAS 27 rules on separate financial statements (discussed later in this section).

## 2.3 Potential voting rights

An entity may own share warrants, share call options, or other similar instruments that are **convertible into ordinary shares** in another entity. If these are exercised or converted they may give the entity voting power or reduce another party's voting power over the financial and operating policies of the other entity (potential voting rights). The **existence and effect** of potential voting rights, including potential voting

rights held by another entity, should be considered when assessing whether an entity has control over another entity (and therefore has a subsidiary). Potential voting rights are considered only if the rights are **substantive** (meaning that the holder must have the practical ability to exercise the right).

In assessing whether potential voting rights give rise to control, the investor should consider the **purpose and design of the instrument**. This includes an assessment of the various terms and conditions of the instrument as well as the investor's apparent expectations, motives and reasons for agreeing to those terms and conditions.

## 2.4 Exclusion of a subsidiary from consolidation

Where a parent controls one or more subsidiaries, IFRS 10 requires that consolidated financial statements are prepared to include **all subsidiaries, both foreign and domestic** other than:

- Those held for sale in accordance with IFRS 5
- Those held under such long-term restrictions that control cannot be operated.

The rules on exclusion of subsidiaries from consolidation are necessarily strict, because this is a common method used by entities to manipulate their results. If a subsidiary which carries a large amount of debt can be excluded, then the gearing of the group as a whole will be improved. In other words, this is a way of taking debt **out of the consolidated statement of financial position**.

IFRS 10 is clear that a subsidiary should not be excluded from consolidation simply because it is loss making or its business activities are dissimilar from those of the group as a whole. IFRS 10 rejects the latter argument: exclusion on these grounds is not justified because better information can be provided about such subsidiaries by consolidating their results and then giving additional information about the different business activities of the subsidiary, eg under IFRS 8 *Operating segments*.

## 2.5 Different reporting dates

In most cases, all group companies will prepare accounts to the same reporting date. One or more subsidiaries may, however, prepare accounts to a different reporting date from the parent and the bulk of other subsidiaries in the group.

In such cases the subsidiary may prepare additional statements to the reporting date of the rest of the group, for consolidation purposes. If this is not possible, the subsidiary's accounts may still be used for the consolidation, *provided that* the gap between the reporting dates is **three months or less**.

Where a subsidiary's accounts are drawn up to a different accounting date, **adjustments should be made** for the effects of significant transactions or other events that occur between that date and the parent's reporting date.

## 2.6 Uniform accounting policies

Consolidated financial statements should be prepared using **uniform accounting policies** for like transactions and other events in similar circumstances.

**Adjustments** must be made where members of a group use different accounting policies, so that their financial statements are suitable for consolidation.

## 2.7 Date of inclusion/exclusion

The results of subsidiary undertakings are included in the consolidated financial statements from:

- (a) The date of 'acquisition', ie the **date on which the investor obtains control**, to
- (b) The date of 'disposal', ie the **date when the investor loses control**.

Once an investment is no longer a subsidiary, it should be treated as an associate under IAS 28 (if applicable) or as an investment under IFRS 9 (see [Chapter 7](#)).

## 2.8 Accounting for subsidiaries and associates in the parent's separate financial statements

A parent company will usually produce its own single company financial statements. In these statements, governed by IAS 27 *Separate financial statements*, investments in subsidiaries and associates included in the consolidated financial statements should be *either*:

- (a) Accounted for at **cost**, or
- (b) In accordance with **IFRS 9** (see [Chapter 7](#)).

Where subsidiaries are **classified as held for sale** in accordance with IFRS 5 they should be accounted for in accordance with IFRS 5 (see [Chapter 15](#)).

## 2.9 Disclosure

IFRS 12 *Disclosure of interests in other entities* was issued in May 2011 as part of the 'package of five standards' relating to consolidation. It removes all disclosure requirements from other standards relating to group accounting and provides guidance applicable to consolidated financial statements.

The standard requires disclosure of:

- (a) The significant judgements and assumptions made in determining the nature of an interest in another entity or arrangement, and in determining the type of joint arrangement in which an interest is held
- (b) Information about interests in subsidiaries, associates, joint arrangements and structured entities that are not controlled by an investor.

### 2.9.1 Disclosure of subsidiaries

The following disclosures are required in respect of subsidiaries:

- (a) The interest that non-controlling interests have in the group's activities and cash flows, including the name of relevant subsidiaries, their principal place of business, and the interest and voting rights of the non-controlling interests
- (b) Nature and extent of significant restrictions on an investor's ability to use group assets and liabilities
- (c) Nature of the risks associated with an entity's interests in consolidated structured entities, such as the provision of financial support
- (d) Consequences of changes in ownership interest in subsidiary (whether control is lost or not)

### 2.9.2 Disclosure of associates and joint arrangements

The following disclosures are required in respect of associates and joint arrangements:

- (a) Nature, extent and financial effects of an entity's interests in associates or joint arrangements, including name of the investee, principal place of business, the investor's interest in the investee, method of accounting for the investee and restrictions on the investee's ability to transfer funds to the investor
- (b) Risks associated with an interest in an associate or joint venture
- (c) Summarised financial information, with more detail required for joint ventures than for associates.

## 2.10 Attribution of losses

Under IFRS 10, non-controlling interests can be negative. This is consistent with the idea that non-controlling interests are part of the equity of the group.



## 2.11 Revision: summary of techniques

The summary given below is very brief but it encompasses all the major, but basic, rules of consolidation for, first, the consolidated statement of financial position.

Knowledge brought forward from earlier studies

### *Summary of technique: consolidated statement of financial position*

- **Net assets:** 100% P plus 100% S.
- **Share capital:** P only.
- **Reserves:** 100% P plus group share of post-acquisition retained reserves of S less consolidation adjustments.
- **Non-controlling interest:** NCI at acquisition plus NCI share of S's post acquisition retained reserves.

The next section is a recap of the techniques you should remember from your earlier studies. The P2 syllabus introduces a range of extra complications in consolidations, but the basics will always form part of any question.

**Step 1** Read the question and draw up the group structure (W1), highlighting useful information:

- the percentage owned
- acquisition date
- pre-acquisition reserves

**Step 2** Draw up a proforma taking into account the group structure identified:

- leave out cost of investment
- put in a line for goodwill
- put in a line for investment in associate
- remember to include non-controlling interests
- leave lines in case of any additions

**Step 3** Work methodically down the statement of financial position, transferring:

- figures to proforma or workings
- 100% of all assets/liabilities controlled at the year end aggregated in brackets on face of proforma, ready for adjustments
- Cost of subsidiary/associate and reserves to group workings, setting them up as you work down the statement of financial position
- Share capital and share premium (parent only) to face of proforma answer
- Open up a (blank) working for non-controlling interests.

**Step 4** Read through the additional notes and attempt the adjustments showing workings for all calculations.

Do the double entry for the adjustments onto your proforma answer and onto your group workings (where the group workings are affected by one side of the double entry).

### **Examples:**

Cancel any intragroup items eg current account balances, loans

Adjust for unrealised profits:

|  |   |                      |
|--|---|----------------------|
| Unrealised profit on intragroup sales    | X |                      |
| % held in inventories at year end        | % |                      |
| = Provision for unrealised profit (PUP)  | X | DR Retained earnings |
| (adjust in company <b>selling</b> goods) |   | CR Group inventories |

Make fair value adjustments:

|                                    | <i>Acq'n date</i>                                 | <i>Movement</i>   | <i>Year end</i>   |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Inventories                        | X   | (X)   | X   |
| Depreciable non-current assets     | X   | (X)   | X   |
| Non-depreciable non-current assets | X   | (X)   | X   |
| Other fair value adjustments       | <u>X/(X)</u>                                      | <u>(X)/X</u>  | <u>X/(X)</u>  |
|                                    | <u>X</u>  | <u>(X)</u>  | <u>X</u>  |
|                                    | <i>This total appears in the goodwill working</i> | <i>This total is used to adjust the subsidiary's reserves in the reserves working</i> | <i>The individual figures here are used to adjust the relevant balances on the consolidated statement of financial position</i> |

## Step 5

Complete goodwill calculation

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Consideration transferred  | X          |
| Non-controlling interests (at % fair value (FV) of net assets or at 'full' FV) | X          |
| Less: net fair value of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed:  |            |
| Share capital  | X          |
| Share premium  | X          |
| Retained earnings at acquisition   | X          |
| Other reserves at acquisition  | X          |
| Fair value adjustments at acquisition  | <u>X</u>   |
|  | (X)        |
|  | X          |
| Less: impairment losses on goodwill to date                                    | <u>(X)</u> |
|  | <u>X</u>   |

## Step 6

Complete the consolidated retained earnings calculation:

|  | <i>Parent</i> | <i>Subsidiary</i> | <i>Assoc</i> |
|--|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Per question                                   | X             | X                 | X            |
| Adjustments                                    | X/(X)         | X/(X)             | X/(X)        |
| Fair value adjustments movement                |               | X/(X)             | X/(X)        |
| Pre-acquisition retained earnings              |               | <u>(X)</u>        | <u>(X)</u>   |
| Group share of post acq'n ret'd earnings:      |               | <u>Y</u>          | <u>Z</u>     |
| Subsidiary ( $Y \times \%$ )                   | X             |                   |              |
| Associate ( $Z \times \%$ )                    | X             |                   |              |
| Less: group share of impairment losses to date | <u>(X)</u>    |                   |              |
|  | <u>X</u>      |                   |              |

*Note:* Other reserves are treated in a similar way.

## Step 7

Complete 'Investment in associate' calculation:

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Cost of associate  | X          |
| Share of post-acquisition retained reserves (from reserves working $Z \times \%$ ) | X          |
| Less: group impairment losses on associate to date                                 | <u>(X)</u> |
|  | <u>X</u>   |

Complete the non-controlling interests calculation:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| NCI at acquisition (from goodwill working)  | X          |
| NCI share of post acq'n reserves (from reserves working $Y \times \text{NCI } \%$ ) | X          |
| Less: NCI share of impairment losses (only if NCI at 'full' FV at acq'n)            | <u>(X)</u> |
|   | <u>X</u>   |

The technique for the preparation of a **consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income** is given below.

## Consolidated statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income

### Overview

The statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income shows a true and fair view of the group's activities since acquisition of any subsidiaries.

- (a) The top part of the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income shows the income, expenses, profit and other comprehensive income controlled by the group.
- (b) The reconciliation at the bottom of the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income shows the ownership of those profits and total comprehensive income.

### Method

#### Step 1

Read the question and draw up the group structure and where subsidiaries/associates are acquired in the year identify the proportion to consolidate. A timeline may be useful.

#### Step 2

Draw up a pro-forma:

- Remember the non-controlling interests reconciliation at the foot of the statement.

#### Step 3

Work methodically down the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, transferring figures to proforma or workings:

- 100% of all income/expenses (time apportioned  $\times \frac{x}{12}$  if appropriate) in brackets on face of proforma, ready for adjustments
- Exclude dividends receivable from subsidiary
- Subsidiary's profit for the year (PFY) and total comprehensive income (TCI) (for NCI) to face of proforma in brackets (or to a working if many adjustments).
- Associate's PFY and other comprehensive income (OCI) to face of proforma in brackets.

**Step 4** Go through question, calculating the necessary adjustments showing workings for all calculations, transfer the numbers to your proforma and make the adjustments in the non-controlling interests working where the subsidiary's profit is affected.

**Step 5** Calculate 'Share of profit of associate' and 'Share of other comprehensive income of associate' (where appropriate):

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{A's profit for the year (PFY)} \times \text{Group \%} \\ \text{Any group impairment loss recognised on the associate during the period} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} X \\ (X) \\ \hline X \end{array}$$

Shown before group profit before tax.

$$\text{A's other comprehensive income (OCI)} \times \text{Group \%} \quad \begin{array}{r} X \\ \hline \end{array}$$

*Both the associate's profit or loss and other comprehensive income are calculated based on after tax figures.*

**Step 6** Complete non-controlling interests in subsidiary's PFY and TCI calculation:

|  | PFY        | TCI (if req'd) |
|--|------------|----------------|
| PFY/TCI per question (time-apportioned $\times \frac{x}{12}$ if appropriate) | X          | X              |
| Adjustments, eg PUP on sales made by S                                       | (X)/X      | (X)/X          |
| Impairment losses (if NCI held at fair value)                                | <u>(X)</u> | <u>(X)</u>     |
|  | <u>X</u>   | <u>X</u>       |
| $\times$ NCI%  | <u>X</u>   | <u>X</u>       |

Now try the following question to refresh your memory on the topics listed above.

### Exam focus point

The consolidation questions in the Paper P2 exam are much more difficult than those in your earlier studies. The examiner will not bother to test basic consolidation techniques directly, although they may come up in a question: rather he will ask about one of the more complex areas which we will look at in the next few chapters.



## Question

## Groups revision: non-controlling interest at fair value

You are provided with the following statements of financial position (balance sheets) for Shark and Minnow.

### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 OCTOBER 20X0

|  | <i>Shark</i> |              | <i>Minnow</i> |            |
|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
|  | \$'000       | \$'000       | \$'000        | \$'000     |
| <i>Non-current assets, at net book value</i> |              |              |               |            |
| Plant  |              | 325          |               | 70         |
| Fixtures                                     |              | 200          |               | 50         |
|  |              | 525          |               | 120        |
| Investment                                   |              |              |               |            |
| Shares in Minnow at cost                     |              | 200          |               |            |
| <i>Current assets</i>                        |              |              |               |            |
| Inventory at cost                            | 220          |              | 70            |            |
| Receivables                                  | 145          |              | 105           |            |
| Bank   | 100          |              | 0             |            |
|  |              | 465          |               | 175        |
|  |              | <u>1,190</u> |               | <u>295</u> |
| <i>Equity</i>                                |              |              |               |            |
| \$1 Ordinary shares                          |              | 700          |               | 170        |
| Retained earnings                            |              | 215          |               | 50         |
|  |              | 915          |               | 220        |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>                   |              |              |               |            |
| Payables                                     | 275          |              | 55            |            |
| Bank overdraft                               | 0            |              | 20            |            |
|  |              | 275          |               | 75         |
|  |              | <u>1,190</u> |               | <u>295</u> |

The following information is also available.

- Shark purchased 70% of the issued ordinary share capital of Minnow four years ago, when the retained earnings of Minnow were \$20,000. There has been no impairment of goodwill.
- For the purposes of the acquisition, plant in Minnow with a book value of \$50,000 was revalued to its fair value of \$60,000. The revaluation was not recorded in the accounts of Minnow. Depreciation is charged at 20% using the straight-line method.
- Shark sells goods to Minnow at a mark up of 25%. At 31 October 20X0, the inventories of Minnow included \$45,000 of goods purchased from Shark.
- Minnow owes Shark \$35,000 for goods purchased and Shark owes Minnow \$15,000.
- It is the group's policy to value the non-controlling interest at fair value.
- The market price of the shares of the non-controlling shareholders just before the acquisition was \$1.50.

### Required

Prepare the consolidated statement of financial position of Shark as at 31 October 20X0.

SHARK

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AS AT 31 OCTOBER 20X0

|                                 | \$'000     | \$'000       |
|---------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| <i>Non-current assets</i>       |            |              |
| Plant (W4)                      | 397        |              |
| Fixtures (200 + 50)             | <u>250</u> |              |
|                                 |            | 647          |
| Intangible asset: goodwill (W1) |            | <u>77</u>    |
|                                 |            | <u>724</u>   |
| <i>Current assets</i>           |            |              |
| Inventory (W5)                  | 281        |              |
| Receivables (W6)                | 200        |              |
| Bank                            | <u>100</u> |              |
|                                 |            | 581          |
|                                 |            | <u>1,305</u> |
| <i>Capital and reserves</i>     |            |              |
| Share capital                   |            | 700          |
| Retained earnings (W2)          |            | <u>222</u>   |
|                                 |            | 922          |
| Non-controlling interests (W3)  |            | <u>83</u>    |
|                                 |            | <u>1,005</u> |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>      |            |              |
| Payables (W7)                   | 280        |              |
| Bank overdraft                  | <u>20</u>  |              |
|                                 |            | 300          |
|                                 |            | <u>1,305</u> |

Workings

|   |  |              |               |
|---|--|--------------|---------------|
| 1 | <i>Goodwill</i>                                      |              | <i>Group</i>  |
|   |  | \$'000       | \$'000        |
|   | Consideration transferred                            |              | 200.0         |
|   | FV NCI ( $30\% \times 170,000 \times \$1.50$ )       |              | 76.5          |
|   | Net assets acquired                                  |              |               |
|   | Share capital  | 170          |               |
|   | Retained earnings                                    | 20           |               |
|   | Revaluation surplus (60 – 50)                        | <u>10</u>    |               |
|   |  |              | 200.0         |
|   | Goodwill in parent                                   |              | <u>76.5m</u>  |
| 2 | <i>Retained earnings</i>                             |              |               |
|   |  | <i>Shark</i> | <i>Minnow</i> |
|   |  | \$'000       | \$'000        |
|   | Per question   | 215          | 50            |
|   | Unrealised profit (W5)                               | (9)          |               |
|   | Excess dep'n on plant (W4)                           |              | (8)           |
|   | At acquisition                                       |              | <u>(20)</u>   |
|   |  |              | <u>22</u>     |
|   | Share of Minnow's post-acquisition retained earnings |              |               |
|   | ( $70\% \times 22$ )                                 | <u>16</u>    |               |
|   |  | <u>222</u>   |               |

|   |  |            |             |
|---|--|------------|-------------|
| 3 | <i>Non-controlling interests</i>                     |            | \$'000      |
|   | At acquisition (W1)                                  |            | 76.5        |
|   | NCl share of post acqn. retained earnings (30% × 22) |            | <u>6.6</u>  |
|   |  |            | <u>83.1</u> |
| 4 | <i>Plant</i>   | \$'000     | \$'000      |
|   | Shark  |            | 325         |
|   | Minnow   |            |             |
|   | Per question   | 70         |             |
|   | Revalued (60 – 50)                                   | 10         |             |
|   | Depreciation on revalued plant (10 × 20% × 4)        | <u>(8)</u> |             |
|   |  |            | <u>72</u>   |
|   |  |            | <u>397</u>  |
| 5 | <i>Inventory</i>                                     | \$'000     | \$'000      |
|   | Shark  |            | 220         |
|   | Minnow   | 70         |             |
|   | Less PUP (45 × <sup>20</sup> / <sub>125</sub> )      | <u>(9)</u> |             |
|   |  |            | <u>61</u>   |
|   |  |            | <u>281</u>  |
| 6 | <i>Receivables</i>                                   | \$'000     | \$'000      |
|   | Shark  |            | 145         |
|   | Less intragroup                                      |            | <u>35</u>   |
|   |  |            | 110         |
|   | Minnow   | 105        |             |
|   | Less intragroup                                      | <u>15</u>  |             |
|   |  |            | <u>90</u>   |
|   |  |            | <u>200</u>  |
| 7 | <i>Payables</i>                                      | \$'000     | \$'000      |
|   | Shark  |            | 275         |
|   | Less intragroup                                      |            | <u>15</u>   |
|   |  |            | 260         |
|   | Minnow   | 55         |             |
|   | Less intragroup                                      | <u>35</u>  |             |
|   |  |            | <u>20</u>   |
|   |  |            | <u>280</u>  |

### 3 IFRS 3 (revised), IFRS 13 and fair values

#### FAST FORWARD

**Goodwill arising on consolidation** is the difference between the purchase consideration and the fair value of the identifiable assets and liabilities acquired.

To understand the importance of fair values in the acquisition of a subsidiary consider again the definition of goodwill.

#### Key term

**Goodwill.** Any excess of the cost of the acquisition over the acquirer's interest in the fair value of the identifiable assets and liabilities acquired as at the date of the exchange transaction.

The **statement of financial position of a subsidiary company** at the date it is acquired may not be a guide to the fair value of its net assets. For example, the market value of a freehold building may have risen

greatly since it was acquired, but it may appear in the statement of financial position at historical cost less accumulated depreciation.

### 3.1 What is fair value?

Fair value is defined as follows by IFRS 13 – it is an important definition.

#### Key term

**Fair value.** The price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market at the measurement date. (IFRS 13)

We will look at the requirements of IFRS 3 (revised) and IFRS 13 regarding fair value in more detail below. First, let us look at some practical matters.

### 3.2 Fair value adjustment calculations

Until now we have calculated goodwill as the difference between the cost of the investment and the **book value** of net assets acquired by the group. If this calculation is to comply with the definition above we must ensure that the book value of the subsidiary's net assets is the same as their **fair value**.

There are two possible ways of achieving this.

- (a) The **subsidiary company** might **incorporate any necessary revaluations** in its own books of account. In this case, we can proceed directly to the consolidation, taking asset values and reserves figures straight from the subsidiary company's statement of financial position.
- (b) The **valuations** may be made as a **consolidation adjustment without being incorporated** in the subsidiary company's books. In this case, we must make the necessary adjustments to the subsidiary's statement of financial position as a working. Only then can we proceed to the consolidation.

**Note.** Remember that when depreciating assets are revalued there may be a corresponding alteration in the amount of depreciation charged and accumulated.

### 3.3 Example: Fair value adjustments

P Co acquired 75% of the ordinary shares of S Co on 1 September 20X5. At that date the fair value of S Co's non-current assets was \$23,000 greater than their net book value, and the balance of retained earnings was \$21,000. The statements of financial position of both companies at 31 August 20X6 are given below. S Co has not incorporated any revaluation in its books of account.

P Co

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 AUGUST 20X6

|                                     | \$            | \$                    |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Assets</i>                       |               |                       |
| Non-current assets                  |               |                       |
| Tangible assets                     | 63,000        |                       |
| Investment in S Co at cost          | <u>51,000</u> |                       |
|                                     |               | 114,000               |
| Current assets                      |               | <u>82,000</u>         |
| <i>Total assets</i>                 |               | <u><u>196,000</u></u> |
| <i>Equity and liabilities</i>       |               |                       |
| Equity                              |               |                       |
| Ordinary shares of \$1 each         | 80,000        |                       |
| Retained earnings                   | <u>96,000</u> |                       |
|                                     |               | 176,000               |
| Current liabilities                 |               | <u>20,000</u>         |
| <i>Total equity and liabilities</i> |               | <u><u>196,000</u></u> |



S CO  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 AUGUST 20X6

|                                     | \$            | \$            |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Assets</i>                       |               |               |
| Tangible non-current assets         |               | 28,000        |
| Current assets                      |               | 43,000        |
| <i>Total assets</i>                 |               | <u>71,000</u> |
| <i>Equity and liabilities</i>       |               |               |
| <i>Equity</i>                       |               |               |
| Ordinary shares of \$1 each         | 20,000        |               |
| Retained earnings                   | <u>41,000</u> | 61,000        |
|                                     |               | <u>10,000</u> |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>          |               | <u>71,000</u> |
| <i>Total equity and liabilities</i> |               | <u>71,000</u> |

If S Co had revalued its non-current assets at 1 September 20X5, an addition of \$3,000 would have been made to the depreciation charged to profit or loss for 20X5/X6. It is the group's policy to value the non-controlling interest at acquisition at its proportionate share of the fair value the subsidiary's net assets.

*Required*

Prepare P Co's consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 August 20X6.

**Solution**

P CO CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 AUGUST 20X6

|  | \$             | \$             |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Non-current assets</i>                          |                |                |
| Property, plant and equipment \$(63,000 + 48,000*) | 111,000        |                |
| Goodwill (W1)                                      | <u>3,000</u>   | 114,000        |
|  |                | <u>125,000</u> |
| <i>Current assets</i>                              |                | <u>239,000</u> |
| <i>Equity and liabilities</i>                      |                |                |
| <i>Equity</i>                                      |                |                |
| Ordinary shares of \$1 each                        | 80,000         |                |
| Retained earnings (W2)                             | <u>108,750</u> | 188,750        |
|  |                | <u>20,250</u>  |
| <i>Non-controlling interest (W3)</i>               |                | <u>209,000</u> |
|  |                | <u>30,000</u>  |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>                         |                | <u>239,000</u> |

\* (28,000 + 23,000 – 3,000) = \$48,000

*Workings*

|   |   |               |                 |
|---|---|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | <i>Goodwill</i>                         |               |                 |
|   |   | \$            | \$              |
|   | Consideration transferred               |               | 51,000          |
|   | Non-controlling interest (64,000 × 25%) |               | 16,000          |
|   |   |               | <u>67,000</u>   |
|   | Net assets acquired as represented by   |               |                 |
|   | Ordinary share capital                  | 20,000        |                 |
|   | Retained earnings                       | 21,000        |                 |
|   | Fair value adjustment                   | <u>23,000</u> |                 |
|   |   |               | <u>(64,000)</u> |
|   | Goodwill                                |               | <u>3,000</u>    |

2 *Retained earnings*

|   | <i>P Co</i>    | <i>S Co</i>   |
|---|----------------|---------------|
|   | \$             | \$            |
| Per question                            | 96,000         | 41,000        |
| Depreciation adjustment                 |                | (3,000)       |
| Pre acquisition profits                 |                | (21,000)      |
| Post acquisition S Co                   |                | <u>17,000</u> |
| Group share in S Co<br>(\$17,000 × 75%) | 12,750         |               |
| Group retained earnings                 | <u>108,750</u> |               |

3 *Non-controlling interest at reporting date*

|  | \$            |
|--|---------------|
| NCI at acquisition (W1)  | 16,000        |
| NCI share of S's post-acquisition retained earnings (25% × 17,000) | <u>4,250</u>  |
|  | <u>20,250</u> |

4 *Fair value adjustments*

|                              | <i>At acq'n date</i> | <i>Movement</i> | <i>Year end</i> |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                              | \$                   | \$              | \$              |
| Property plant and equipment | <u>23,000</u>        | <u>(3,000)</u>  | <u>20,000</u>   |
|                              | <u>23,000</u>        | <u>(3,000)</u>  | <u>20,000</u>   |
|                              | ↓                    | ↓               | ↓               |
|                              | Goodwill             | Ret'd earnings  | SOFP            |

**Note:** S Co has not incorporated the revaluation in its draft statement of financial position. Before beginning the consolidation workings we must therefore adjust for the fair value uplift at the acquisition date, the additional depreciation charge that must be reflected in the subsidiary's post acquisition retained earnings and the remaining uplift that must be reflected in the consolidated statement of financial position. The 'fair value table' working is an efficient way of dealing with this, even where there are several fair value adjustments.



## Question

## Fair value

An asset is recorded in S Co's books at its historical cost of \$4,000. On 1 January 20X5 P Co bought 80% of S Co's equity. Its directors attributed a fair value of \$3,000 to the asset as at that date. It had been depreciated for two years out of an expected life of four years on the straight line basis. There was no expected residual value. On 30 June 20X5 the asset was sold for \$2,600. What is the profit or loss on disposal of this asset to be recorded in S Co's accounts and in P Co's consolidated accounts for the year ended 31 December 20X5?

## Answer

S Co: NBV at disposal (at historical cost) = \$4,000 × 1½/4 = \$1,500  
 ∴ Profit on disposal = \$1,100 (depreciation charge for the year = \$500)

P Co: NBV at disposal (at fair value) = \$3,000 × 1½/2 = \$2,250  
 ∴ Profit on disposal for consolidation = \$350 (depreciation for the year = \$750)

The non-controlling interest would be credited with 20% of both items as part of the one line entry in the profit or loss statement.

### 3.4 IFRS 3 (revised) and IFRS 13: Fair values

#### FAST FORWARD

The accounting requirements and disclosures of the **fair value exercise** are covered by **IFRS 3 (revised)**. **IFRS 13 Fair value measurement** gives extensive guidance on how the fair value of assets and liabilities should be established.

IFRS 3 does not allow combinations to be accounted for as a **uniting of interests**; **all combinations must be treated as acquisitions**.

The general rule under the revised IFRS 3 (revised) is that the subsidiary's assets and liabilities **must be measured at fair value** except in **limited, stated cases**. The assets and liabilities must:

- (a) Meet the destinations of assets and liabilities in the *Conceptual Framework*.
- (b) Be part of what the acquiree (or its former owners) exchanged in the business combination rather than the result of separate transactions

IFRS 13 *Fair value measurement* (see [Chapter 7](#)) provides extensive guidance on how the fair value of assets and liabilities should be established.

This standard requires that the following are considered in measuring fair value:

- (a) The asset or liability being measured
- (b) The principal market (ie that where the most activity takes place) or where there is no principal market, the most advantageous market (ie that in which the best price could be achieved) in which an orderly transaction would take place for the asset or liability
- (c) The highest and best use of the asset or liability and whether it is used on a standalone basis or in conjunction with other assets or liabilities
- (d) Assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability.

Having considered these factors, IFRS 13 provides a hierarchy of inputs for arriving at fair value. It requires that Level 1 inputs are used where possible:

- Level 1** Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets that the entity can access at the measurement date.
- Level 2** Inputs other than quoted prices that are directly or indirectly observable for the asset.
- Level 3** Unobservable inputs for the asset.

#### 3.4.1 Examples of fair value and business combinations

For non-financial assets, fair value is decided based on the highest and best use of the asset as determined by a market participant. The following examples, adapted from the illustrative examples to IFRS 13, demonstrate what is meant by this.

##### Example: Land

Anscome Co has acquired land in a business combination. The land is currently developed for industrial use as a site for a factory. The current use of land is presumed to be its highest and best use unless market or other factors suggest a different use. Nearby sites have recently been developed for residential use as sites for high-rise apartment buildings. On the basis of that development and recent zoning and other changes to facilitate that development, Anscome determines that the land currently used as a site for a factory could be developed as a site for residential use (ie for high-rise apartment buildings) because market participants would take into account the potential to develop the site for residential use when pricing the land.

How would the highest and best use of the land be determined?

## Solution

The highest and best use of the land would be determined by comparing both of the following:

- (a) The value of the land as currently developed for industrial use (ie the land would be used in combination with other assets, such as the factory, or with other assets and liabilities).
- (b) The value of the land as a vacant site for residential use, taking into account the costs of demolishing the factory and other costs (including the uncertainty about whether the entity would be able to convert the asset to the alternative use) necessary to convert the land to a vacant site (ie the land is to be used by market participants on a stand-alone basis).

The highest and best use of the land would be determined on the basis of the higher of those values.

## Example: Research and development project

Searcher has a research and development (R & D) project in a business combination. Searcher does not intend to complete the project. If completed, the project would compete with one of its own projects (to provide the next generation of the entity's commercialised technology). Instead, the entity intends to hold (ie lock up) the project to prevent its competitors from obtaining access to the technology. In doing this the project is expected to provide defensive value, principally by improving the prospects for the entity's own competing technology.

If it could purchase the R & D project, Developer Co would continue to develop the project and that use would maximise the value of the group of assets or of assets and liabilities in which the project would be used (ie the asset would be used in combination with other assets or with other assets and liabilities). Developer Co does not have similar technology.

How would the fair value of the project be measured?

## Solution

The fair value of the project would be measured on the basis of the price that would be received in a current transaction to sell the project, assuming that the R & D would be used with its complementary assets and the associated liabilities and that those assets and liabilities would be available to Developer Co.

## Example: Decommissioning liability

Deacon assumes a decommissioning liability in a business combination. It is legally required to dismantle a power station at the end of its useful life, which is estimated to be twenty years.

How would the decommissioning liability be measured?

## Solution

Because this is a business combination, Deacon must measure the liability at fair value in accordance with IFRS 13, rather than using the best estimate measurement required by IAS 37 *Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets*.

Deacon will use the expected present value technique to measure the fair value of the decommissioning liability. If Deacon were contractually committed to transfer its decommissioning liability to a market participant, it would conclude that a market participant would use all of the following inputs, probability weighted as appropriate, when estimating the price it would expect to receive.

- (a) Labour costs
- (b) Allocated overhead costs
- (c) The compensation that a market participant would generally receive for undertaking the activity, including profit on labour and overhead costs and the risk that the actual cash outflows might differ from those expected
- (d) The effect of inflation
- (e) The time value of money (risk-free rate)

- (f) Non-performance risk, including Deacon's own credit risk

As an example of how the probability adjustment might work, Deacon values labour costs on the basis of current marketplace wages adjusted for expected future wage increases. It determines that there is a 20% probability that the wage bill will be \$15 million, a 30% probability that it will be \$25 million and a 50% probability that it will be \$20 million. Expected cash flows will then be  $(20\% \times \$15m) + (30\% \times \$25m) + (50\% \times \$20m) = \$20.5m$ . The probability assessments will be developed on the basis of Deacon's knowledge of the market and experience of fulfilling obligations of this type.

### 3.4.2 Restructuring and future losses

An acquirer **should not recognise liabilities for future losses** or other costs expected to be incurred as a result of the business combination.

IFRS 3 (revised) explains that a plan to restructure a subsidiary following an acquisition is not a present obligation of the acquiree at the acquisition date. Neither does it meet the definition of a contingent liability. Therefore, an acquirer **should not recognise a liability for such a restructuring plan** as part of allocating the cost of the combination unless the subsidiary was already committed to the plan before the acquisition.

This **prevents creative accounting**. An acquirer cannot set up a provision for restructuring or future losses of a subsidiary and then release this to profit or loss in subsequent periods in order to reduce losses or smooth profits.

### 3.4.3 Intangible assets

The acquiree may have **intangible assets**, such as development expenditure. These can be recognised separately from goodwill only if they are **identifiable**. An intangible asset is identifiable only if it:

- (a) Is **separable**, ie capable of being separated or divided from the entity and sold, transferred, or exchanged, either individually or together with a related contract, asset or liability, or
- (b) Arises from **contractual or other legal rights**.

### 3.4.4 Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities of the acquirer are **recognised** if their **fair value can be measured reliably**. A **contingent liability** must be recognised even if the outflow is not probable, provided there is a present obligation.

This is a departure from the normal rules in IAS 37; contingent liabilities are not normally recognised, but only disclosed.

After their initial recognition, the acquirer should measure contingent liabilities that are recognised separately at the higher of:

- (a) The amount that would be recognised in accordance with IAS 37
- (b) The amount initially recognised

### 3.4.5 Other exceptions to the recognition or measurement principles

- (a) **Deferred tax**: use IAS 12 values.
- (b) **Employee benefits**: use IAS 19 values.
- (c) **Indemnification assets**: measurement should be consistent with the measurement of the indemnified item, for example an employee benefit or a contingent liability.
- (d) **Reacquired rights**: value on the basis of the remaining contractual term of the related contract regardless of whether market participants would consider potential contractual renewals in determining its fair value.
- (e) **Share-based payment**: use IFRS 2 values.
- (f) **Assets held for sale**: use IFRS 5 values.



Tyzo Co prepares accounts to 31 December. On 1 September 20X7 Tyzo Co acquired six million \$1 shares in Kono Co at \$2.00 per share. At that date Kono Co produced the following interim financial statements.

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <i>Non-current assets</i>              | \$'000       |
| Property, plant and equipment (Note 1) | <u>16.0</u>  |
| <i>Current assets</i>                  |              |
| Inventories (Note 2)                   | 4.0          |
| Receivables                            | 2.9          |
| Cash and cash equivalents              | <u>1.2</u>   |
|  | <u>8.1</u>   |
| <i>Total assets</i>                    | <u>24.1</u>  |
| <i>Equity and liabilities</i>          |              |
| Equity                                 |              |
| Share capital (\$1 shares)             | 8.0          |
| Reserves                               | <u>4.4</u>   |
|  | <u>12.4</u>  |
| <i>Non-current liabilities</i>         |              |
| Long-term loans                        | <u>4.0</u>   |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>             |              |
| Trade payables                         | 3.2          |
| Provision for taxation                 | 0.6          |
| Bank overdraft                         | <u>3.9</u>   |
|  | <u>(7.7)</u> |
| <i>Total equity and liabilities</i>    | <u>24.1</u>  |

### Notes

- (a) The following information relates to the property, plant and equipment of Kono Co at 1 September 20X7.

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
|                        | \$m  |
| Gross replacement cost | 28.4 |
| Net replacement cost   | 16.6 |
| Economic value         | 18.0 |
| Net realisable value   | 8.0  |

The property, plant and equipment of Kono Co at 1 September 20X7 had a total purchase cost to Kono Co of \$27.0 million. They were all being depreciated at 25 per cent per annum pro rata on that cost. This policy is also appropriate for the consolidated financial statements of Tyzo Co. No non-current assets of Kono Co which were included in the interim financial statements drawn up as at 1 September 20X7 were disposed of by Kono Co prior to 31 December 20X7. No non-current asset was fully depreciated by 31 December 20X7.

- (b) The inventories of Kono Co which were shown in the interim financial statements are raw materials at cost to Kono Co of \$4 million. They would have cost \$4.2 million to replace at 1 September 20X7. Of the inventory of Kono Co in hand at 1 September 20X7, goods costing Kono Co \$3.0 million were sold for \$3.6 million between 1 September 20X7 and 31 December 20X7.
- (c) On 1 September 20X7 Tyzo Co took a decision to rationalise the group so as to integrate Kono Co. The costs of the rationalisation were estimated to total \$3.0 million and the process was due to start on 1 March 20X8. No provision for these costs has been made in any of the financial statements given above.

- (d) It is the group's policy to value the non-controlling interests at its proportionate share of the fair value of the subsidiary's net assets.

#### Required

Compute the goodwill on consolidation of Kono Co that will be included in the consolidated financial statements of the Tyzo Co group for the year ended 31 December 20X7, explaining your treatment of the items mentioned above. You should refer to the provisions of relevant accounting standards.

### Answer

#### Goodwill on consolidation of Kono Co

|  | \$m        | \$m        |
|--|------------|------------|
| Consideration ( $\$2.00 \times 6m$ )             |            | 12.0       |
| Non-controlling interest ( $13.2m \times 25\%$ ) |            | <u>3.3</u> |
|  |            | 15.3       |
| Group share of fair value of net assets acquired |            |            |
| Share capital                                    | 8.0        |            |
| Pre-acquisition reserves                         | 4.4        |            |
|  | \$m        | \$m        |
| <i>Fair value adjustments</i>                    |            |            |
| Property, plant and equipment ( $16.6 - 16.0$ )  | 0.6        |            |
| Inventories ( $4.2 - 4.0$ )                      | <u>0.2</u> |            |
|  |            | (13.2)     |
| Goodwill   |            | <u>2.1</u> |

#### Notes on treatment

- (a) Share capital and pre-acquisition profits represent the book value of the net assets of Kono Co at the date of acquisition. Adjustments are then required to this book value in order to give the fair value of the net assets at the date of acquisition. For short-term monetary items, fair value is their carrying value on acquisition.
- (b) IFRS 3 (revised) states that the fair value of property, plant and equipment should be measured by market value or, if information on a market price is not available (as is the case here), then by reference to depreciated replacement cost, reflecting normal business practice. The net replacement cost (ie \$16.6m) represents the gross replacement cost less depreciation based on that amount, and so further adjustment for extra depreciation is unnecessary.
- (c) IFRS 3 (revised) also states that raw materials should be valued at replacement cost. In this case that amount is \$4.2m.
- (d) The rationalisation costs cannot be reported in pre-acquisition results under IFRS 3 (revised) as they are not a liability of Kono Co at the acquisition date.

## 3.5 Goodwill arising on acquisition

Goodwill should be carried in the statement of financial position at **cost less any accumulated impairment losses**. The treatment of goodwill is covered in detail in [Chapter 4](#).

## 3.6 Adjustments after the initial accounting is complete

Sometimes the fair values of the acquiree's identifiable assets, liabilities or contingent liabilities or the cost of the combination can only be measured **provisionally** by the **end of the period in which the combination takes place**. In this situation, the acquirer **should account for the combination using those provisional values**. The acquirer should **recognise any adjustments** to those provisional values as a result of completing the initial accounting:

- (a) **Within twelve months** of the acquisition date, and
- (b) **From** the acquisition date (ie, retrospectively)

This means that:

- (a) The **carrying amount** of an item that is recognised or adjusted as a result of completing the initial accounting shall be calculated **as if its fair value** at the acquisition date **had been recognised from that date**.
- (b) **Goodwill should be adjusted** from the acquisition date by an amount equal to the adjustment to the fair value of the item being recognised or adjusted.

Any further adjustments after the initial accounting is complete should be **recognised only to correct an error** in accordance with IAS 8 *Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors*. Any subsequent changes in estimates are dealt with in accordance with IAS 8 (ie, the effect is recognised in the current and future periods). IAS 8 requires an entity to account for an error correction retrospectively, and to present financial statements as if the error had never occurred by restating the comparative information for the prior period(s) in which the error occurred.

### 3.6.1 Reverse acquisitions

IFRS 3 (revised) also addresses a certain type of acquisition, known as a **reverse acquisition or takeover**. This is where Company A acquires ownership of Company B through a share exchange. (For example, a private entity may arrange to have itself 'acquired' by a smaller public entity as a means of obtaining a stock exchange listing.) The number of shares issued by Company A as consideration to the shareholders of Company B is so great that control of the combined entity after the transaction is with the shareholders of Company B.

In legal terms Company A may be regarded as the parent or continuing entity, but IFRS 3 (revised) states that, as it is the Company B shareholders who control the combined entity, **Company B should be treated as the acquirer**. Company B should apply the acquisition (or purchase) method to the assets and liabilities of Company A.

## 4 IAS 28 Investments in associates and joint ventures

### FAST FORWARD

**IAS 28** deals with accounting for associates and joint ventures. The definitions are important as they govern the accounting treatment, particularly '**significant influence**' and '**joint control**'.

**IFRS 11** (see [Chapter 13](#)) and **IAS 28** require joint ventures to be accounted for using the equity method.

We looked at investments in associates briefly in Section 1. IAS 28 *Investments in associates and joint ventures* covers this type of investment. IAS 28 does not apply to investments in associates or joint ventures held by venture capital organisations, mutual funds, unit trusts, and similar entities. Those investments may be measured at fair value through profit or loss in accordance with IFRS 9.

In this section we will focus on **associates**. The criteria that exist to identify a **joint venture** will be covered in Chapter 13, although the method for accounting for a joint venture is identical to that used for associates.

Some of the important definitions in Section 1 are repeated here, with some additional important terms.

### Key terms

**Associate.** An entity, including an unincorporated entity such as a partnership, over which an investor has significant influence and which is neither a subsidiary nor a joint venture of the investor.

**Significant influence** is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of an economic activity but is not control or joint control over those policies.

**Joint control** is the contractually agreed sharing of control over an economic activity.

**Equity method.** A method of accounting whereby the investment is initially recorded at cost and adjusted thereafter for the post acquisition change in the investor's share of net assets of the investee. The profit or loss of the investor includes the investor's share of the profit or loss of the investee and the investor's other comprehensive income includes its share of the investee's other comprehensive income.



We have already looked at how the **status** of an investment in an associate should be determined. Go back to Section 2 to revise it. (Note that, as for an investment in a subsidiary, any **potential voting rights** should be taken into account in assessing whether the investor has **significant influence** over the investee.)

IAS 28 requires all investments in associates and joint ventures to be accounted for using the equity method, *unless* the investment is classified as 'held for sale' in accordance with IFRS 5 in which case it should be accounted for under IFRS 5 (see [Chapter 15](#)).

An investor is exempt from applying the equity method if:

- (a) It is a parent exempt from preparing consolidated financial statements under IAS 27 (revised) or
- (b) All of the following apply:
  - (i) The investor is a **wholly-owned subsidiary** or it is a **partially owned subsidiary** of another entity and its other owners, including those not otherwise entitled to vote, have been informed about, and do not object to, the investor not applying the equity method;
  - (ii) Its securities are **not publicly traded**;
  - (iii) It is **not in the process of issuing securities** in public securities markets; and
  - (iv) The **ultimate or intermediate parent** publishes consolidated financial statements that comply with International Financial Reporting Standards.

IAS 28 **does not allow** an investment in an associate to be excluded from equity accounting when an investee operates under severe long-term restrictions that significantly impair its ability to transfer funds to the investor. Significant influence must be lost before the equity method ceases to be applicable.

The use of the equity method should be **discontinued** from the date that the investor **ceases to have significant influence**.

From that date, the investor shall account for the investment in accordance with IFRS 9 *Financial instruments*. The fair value of the retained interest must be regarded as its fair value on initial recognition as a financial asset under IFRS 9.

## 4.1 Separate financial statements of the investor

Note that in the separate financial statements of the investor, an interest in an associate is accounted for either:

- At cost, *or*
- In accordance with IFRS 9.

## 4.2 Application of the equity method: consolidated accounts

### FAST FORWARD

The **equity method** should be applied in the consolidated accounts:

- **Statement of financial position:** investment in associate at cost plus (or minus) the group's share of the associate's post-acquisition profits (or losses).
- **Profit or loss (statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income):** group share of associate's profit after tax.
- **Other comprehensive income (statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income):** group share of associate's other comprehensive income after tax.

Many of the procedures required to apply the equity method are the same as are required for full consolidation. In particular, **fair value adjustments** are required and the group share of **intra-group unrealised profits** must be excluded.

### 4.2.1 Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

The basic principle is that the investing company (X Co) should take account of its **share of the earnings** of the associate, Y Co, whether or not Y Co distributes the earnings as dividends. X Co achieves this by adding to consolidated profit the group's share of Y Co's profit after tax.

Notice the difference between this treatment and the **consolidation** of a subsidiary company's results. If Y Co were a subsidiary X Co would take credit for the whole of its sales revenue, cost of sales and so on and would then prepare a reconciliation at the end of the statement showing how much of the group profit and total comprehensive income is owned by non-controlling interests.

Under equity accounting, the associate's sales revenue, cost of sales and so on are **not amalgamated** with those of the group. Instead, the **group share** only of the associate's **profit after tax** and **other comprehensive income** for the year is included in the relevant sections of the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

### 4.2.2 Consolidated statement of financial position

A figure for **investment in associates** is shown which at the time of the acquisition must be stated at cost. This amount will increase (decrease) each year by the amount of the group's share of the associate's total comprehensive income retained for the year.

The group share of the associate's reserves are also included within the group reserves figure in the equity section of the consolidated statement of financial position.

### 4.2.3 Example: Associate

P Co, a company with subsidiaries, acquires 25,000 of the 100,000 \$1 ordinary shares in A Co for \$60,000 on 1 January 20X8. In the year to 31 December 20X8, A Co earns profits after tax of \$24,000, from which it declares a dividend of \$6,000.

How will A Co's results be accounted for in the individual and consolidated accounts of P Co for the year ended 31 December 20X8?

### Solution

In the **individual accounts** of P Co, the investment will be recorded on 1 January 20X8 at cost. Unless there is an impairment in the value of the investment (see below), this amount will remain in the individual statement of financial position of P Co permanently. The only entry in P Co's statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income will be to record dividends received. For the year ended 31 December 20X8, P Co will:

|        |  |         |         |
|--------|--|---------|---------|
| DEBIT  | Cash                                       | \$1,500 |         |
| CREDIT | Income from shares in associated companies |         | \$1,500 |

In the **consolidated accounts** of P Co equity accounting principles will be used to account for the investment in A Co. Consolidated profit after tax will include the group's share of A Co's profit after tax ( $25\% \times \$24,000 = \$6,000$ ). To the extent that this has been distributed as dividend, it is already included in P Co's individual accounts and will automatically be brought into the consolidated results. That part of the group's profit share which has not been distributed as dividend (\$4,500) will be brought into consolidation by the following adjustment.

|        |                                  |         |         |
|--------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| DEBIT  | Investment in associates         | \$4,500 |         |
| CREDIT | Income from shares in associates |         | \$4,500 |

The asset 'Investment in associates' is then stated at \$64,500, being cost plus the group share of post-acquisition retained profits.

## 4.3 Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

The treatment of associates' profits in the following proforma should be studied carefully.

### 4.3.1 Pro-forma consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

The following is a **suggested layout** (for a statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income) for a company having subsidiaries as well as associates.

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
|  | \$'000      |
| Sales revenue                                  | 1,400       |
| Cost of sales                                  | <u>770</u>  |
| Gross profit                                   | 630         |
| Distribution costs and administrative expenses | <u>290</u>  |
|  | 340         |
| Interest and similar income receivable         | <u>30</u>   |
|  | 370         |
| Finance costs                                  | <u>(20)</u> |
|  | 350         |
| Share of profit (after tax) of associate       | <u>17</u>   |
| Profit before taxation                         | 367         |
| Income tax expense                             |             |
| Parent company and subsidiaries                | <u>145</u>  |
| Profit for the year                            | <u>222</u>  |
| Profit attributable to:                        |             |
| Owners of the parent                           | 200         |
| Non-controlling interest                       | <u>22</u>   |
|  | <u>222</u>  |

## 4.4 Consolidated statement of financial position

As explained earlier, the consolidated statement of financial position will contain an **asset 'Investment in associated companies'**. The amount at which this asset is stated will be its original cost plus the group's share of the associate's **total comprehensive income earned since acquisition** which has not been distributed as dividends.

## 4.5 Other accounting considerations

The following points are also relevant and are similar to a parent-subsidiary consolidation situation.

- Use financial statements drawn up to the **same reporting date**.
- If this is impracticable, adjust the financial statements for **significant transactions/ events** in the intervening period. The difference between the reporting date of the associate and that of the investor must be no more than three months.
- Use **uniform accounting policies** for like transactions and events in similar circumstances, adjusting the associate's statements to reflect group policies if necessary.
- If an associate has **cumulative preferred shares** held by outside interests, calculate the share of the investor's profits/losses after adjusting for the preferred dividends (whether or not declared).

## 4.6 'Upstream' and 'downstream' transactions

A group (made up of a parent and its consolidated subsidiaries) may trade with its associates. This introduces the possibility of unrealised profits if goods sold within the group are still in inventories at the

year end. This is similar to unrealised profits arising on trading between a parent and a subsidiary. The important thing to remember is that when an **associate** is involved, **only the group's share is eliminated.**

The precise accounting entries depend on the direction of the transaction. 'Upstream' transactions are sales from an associate to the investor. 'Downstream' transactions are sales of assets from the investor to an associate.

The double entry is as follows, where A% is the parent's holding in the associate, and PUP is the provision for unrealised profit.

|        |                             |          |          |
|--------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | Retained earnings of parent | PUP × A% |          |
| CREDIT | Group inventories           |          | PUP × A% |

For upstream transactions (associate sells to parent/subsidiary) where the parent holds the inventories.

**OR**

|        |   |          |          |
|--------|---|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | Retained earnings of parent /subsidiary | PUP × A% |          |
| CREDIT | Investment in associate                 |          | PUP × A% |

For downstream transactions, (parent/subsidiary sells to associate) where the associate holds the inventory.

## 4.7 Example: Downstream transaction

A Co, a parent with subsidiaries, holds 25% of the equity shares in B Co. During the year, A Co makes sales of \$1,000,000 to B Co at cost plus a 25% mark-up. At the year-end, B Co has all these goods still in inventories.

### Solution

A Co has made an unrealised profit of \$200,000 ( $1,000,000 \times 25/125$ ) on its sales to the associate. The group's share of this is 25%, ie \$50,000. This must be eliminated.

The double entry is:

|        |                             |          |          |
|--------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | A: Retained earnings        | \$50,000 |          |
| CREDIT | Investment in associate (B) |          | \$50,000 |

Because the sale was made to the associate, the group's share of the unsold inventories forms part of the investment in associate at the year end. If the sale had been from the associate B to A, ie an upstream transaction, the double entry would have been:

|        |                      |          |          |
|--------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | A: Retained earnings | \$50,000 |          |
| CREDIT | A: Inventories       |          | \$50,000 |

If preparing the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, you would add the \$50,000 to cost of sales, as the **parent** made the sales in this example.

### 4.7.1 Associate's losses

When the equity method is being used and the investor's share of losses of the associate equals or exceeds its interest in the associate, the investor should **discontinue** including its share of further losses. The investment is reported at nil value. The interest in the associate is normally the carrying amount of the investment in the associate, but it also includes any other long-term interests, for example, preference shares or long term receivables or loans.

After the investor's interest is reduced to nil, **additional losses** should only be recognised where the investor has incurred obligations or made payments on behalf of the associate (for example, if it has guaranteed amounts owed to third parties by the associate).

Should the associate return to profit, the parent may resume recognising its share of profits only after they equal the share of losses not recognised.

## 4.8 Impairment losses

IAS 39 sets out a list of indications that a financial asset (including an associate) may have become impaired. Any impairment loss is recognised in accordance with IAS 36 *Impairment of assets* for each associate as a single asset. There is no separate testing for impairment of goodwill, as the goodwill that forms part of the carrying amount of an investment in an associate is not separately recognised. An impairment loss is not allocated to any asset, including goodwill, that forms part of the carrying amount of the investment in associate. Accordingly, any reversal of that impairment loss is recognised in accordance with IAS 36 to the extent that the recoverable amount of the investment subsequently increases.

## 4.9 Non-controlling interest/associate held by a subsidiary

Where the investment in an associate is held by a subsidiary in which there are non-controlling interests, the non-controlling interest shown in the consolidated financial statements of the group should include the **non-controlling interest of the subsidiary's interest** in the results and net assets of the associated company.

This means that the group accounts must include the 'gross' share of net assets, pre-tax profits and tax, in accounting for the **non-controlling interest separately**. For example, we will suppose that P Co owns 60% of S Co which owns 25% of A Co, an associate of P Co. The relevant amounts for inclusion in the consolidated financial statements would be as follows.

### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Operating profit (P 100% + S 100%)

Share of profit after tax of associate (A 25%)

Tax (P 100% + S 100%)

Non-controlling interest (S 40% + A 10%\*)

Retained profits (P 100% + S 60% + A 15%)

### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Investment in associate (figures based on 25% holding)

Non-controlling interest ((40% × shareholders' funds of S) + (10%\* × post-acq'n retained earnings of A))

Unrealised reserves (15% × post-acquisition reserves of A)

Group retained earnings ((100% × P) + (60% × post-acquisition of S))

\* 40% × 25% = 10%

## 4.10 Comprehensive question

The following question provides comprehensive revision of the topics covered up to this point in the chapter. It is written in the style of a P2 question, but only includes issues that you should remember from your earlier studies. It is important that you are confident about these techniques before moving on to the new and more complicated group accounting topics that are tested in Paper P2.



### Question

### Basic group accounting techniques

Otway, a public limited company, acquired a subsidiary, Holgarth, on 1 July 20X2 and an associate, Batterbee, on 1 July 20X5. The details of the acquisitions at the respective dates are as follows.

| Investee  | Ordinary<br>share<br>capital of<br>\$1 | Share<br>premium | Reserves<br>Retained<br>earnings | Revaluation<br>surplus | Fair value of<br>net assets at<br>acquisition | Cost of<br>investment | Ordinary<br>share<br>capital<br>acquired |
|-----------|--|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
|           | \$m                                    | \$m              | \$m                              | \$m                    | \$m   | \$m                   | \$m                                      |
| Holgarth  | 400                                    | 140              | 120                              | 40                     | 800   | 765                   | 320                                      |
| Batterbee | 220                                    | 83               | 195                              | 54                     | 652   | 203                   | 55                                       |

The draft financial statements for the year ended 30 June 20X6 are as follows.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 20X6

|                                | Otway<br>\$m | Holgarth<br>\$m | Batterbee<br>\$m |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <i>Non-current assets</i>      |              |                 |                  |
| Property, plant and equipment  | 1,012        | 920             | 442              |
| Intangible assets              |              | 350             | 27               |
| Investment in Holgarth         | 765          | –               | –                |
| Investment in Batterbee        | 203          | –               | –                |
|                                | <u>1,980</u> | <u>1,270</u>    | <u>469</u>       |
| <i>Current assets</i>          |              |                 |                  |
| Inventories                    | 620          | 1,460           | 214              |
| Trade receivables              | 950          | 529             | 330              |
| Cash and cash equivalents      | 900          | 510             | 45               |
|                                | <u>2,470</u> | <u>2,499</u>    | <u>589</u>       |
|                                | <u>4,450</u> | <u>3,769</u>    | <u>1,058</u>     |
| <i>Equity</i>                  |              |                 |                  |
| Share capital                  | 1,000        | 400             | 220              |
| Share premium                  | 200          | 140             | 83               |
| Retained earnings              | 1,128        | 809             | 263              |
| Revaluation surplus            | 142          | 70              | 62               |
|                                | <u>2,470</u> | <u>1,419</u>    | <u>628</u>       |
| <i>Non-current liabilities</i> |              |                 |                  |
| Deferred tax liability         | 100          | 50              | 36               |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>     |              |                 |                  |
| Trade and other payables       | 1,880        | 2,300           | 394              |
|                                | <u>4,450</u> | <u>3,769</u>    | <u>1,058</u>     |

STATEMENTS OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 20X6

|   | Otway<br>\$m | Holgarth<br>\$m | Batterbee<br>\$m |
|---|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <i>Revenue</i>  | 4,480        | 4,200           | 1,460            |
| Cost of sales   | (2,690)      | (2,940)         | (1,020)          |
| Gross profit  | 1,790        | 1,260           | 440              |
| Distribution costs and administrative expenses                                    | (620)        | (290)           | (196)            |
| Finance costs   | (50)         | (80)            | (24)             |
| Dividend income (from Holgarth and Batterbee)                                     | 260          | –               | –                |
| <i>Profit before tax</i>  | 1,380        | 890             | 220              |
| Income tax expense  | (330)        | (274)           | (72)             |
| <i>PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</i>  | <u>1,050</u> | <u>616</u>      | <u>148</u>       |
| <i>Other comprehensive income that will not be reclassified to profit or loss</i> |              |                 |                  |
| Gain on revaluation of property   | 30           | 7               | 12               |
| Income tax expense relating to other comp income                                  | (9)          | (2)             | (4)              |
| <i>Other comprehensive income, net of tax</i>                                     | <u>21</u>    | <u>5</u>        | <u>8</u>         |
| <i>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</i>                                    | <u>1,071</u> | <u>621</u>      | <u>156</u>       |
| Dividends paid in the year  | <u>250</u>   | <u>300</u>      | <u>80</u>        |
| Retained earnings brought forward   | <u>328</u>   | <u>493</u>      | <u>195</u>       |
| <i>Additional information:</i>  |              |                 |                  |

- (a) Neither Holgarth nor Batterbee had any reserves other than retained earnings and share premium at the date of acquisition. Neither issued new shares since acquisition.

- (b) The fair value difference on the subsidiary relates to property, plant and equipment being depreciated through cost of sales over a remaining useful life of 10 years from the acquisition date. The fair value difference on the associate relates to a piece of land (which has not been sold since acquisition).
- (c) Group policy is to measure non-controlling interests at acquisition at fair value. The fair value of the non-controlling interests on 1 July 20X2 was calculated as \$188m.
- (d) Holgarth's intangible assets include \$87 million of training and marketing expenditure incurred during the year ended 30 June 20X6. The directors of Holgarth believe that these should be capitalised as they relate to the start-up period of a new business venture in Scotland, and intend to amortise the balance over five years from 1 July 20X6.
- (e) During the year ended 30 June 20X6 Holgarth sold goods to Otway for \$1,300 million. The company makes a profit of 30% on the selling price. \$140 million of these goods were held by Otway on 30 June 20X6 (\$60 million on 30 June 20X5).
- (f) Annual impairment tests have indicated impairment losses of \$100m relating to the recognised goodwill of Holgarth including \$25m in the current year. The Otway Group recognises impairment losses on goodwill in cost of sales. No impairment losses to date have been necessary for the investment in Batterbee.

*Required*

Prepare the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 20X6 for the Otway Group and a statement of financial position at that date.

**Answer**

**OTWAY GROUP**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 20X6**

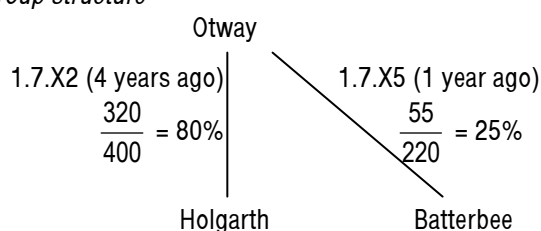
|  | \$m          |
|--|--------------|
| <i>Non-current assets</i>                              |              |
| Property, plant and equipment (1,012 + 920 + (W10) 60) | 1,992        |
| Goodwill (W2)  | 53           |
| Other intangible assets (350 – (W9) 87)                | 263          |
| Investment in associate (W3)                           | 222          |
|  | <u>2,530</u> |
| <i>Current assets</i>                                  |              |
| Inventories (620 + 1,460 – (W8) 42)                    | 2,038        |
| Trade receivables (950 + 529)                          | 1,479        |
| Cash and cash equivalents (900 + 510)                  | 1,410        |
|  | <u>4,927</u> |
|  | <u>7,457</u> |
| <i>Equity attributable to owners of the parent</i>     |              |
| Share capital  | 1,000        |
| Share premium  | 200          |
| Retained earnings (W4)                                 | 1,481        |
| Revaluation surplus (W5)                               | 168          |
|  | <u>2,849</u> |
| <i>Non-controlling interests (W6)</i>                  | <u>278</u>   |
|  | <u>3,127</u> |
| <i>Non-current liabilities</i>                         |              |
| Deferred tax liability (100 + 50)                      | 150          |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>                             |              |
| Trade and other payables (1,880 + 2,300)               | 4,180        |
|  | <u>7,457</u> |

OTWAY GROUP  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 20X6

|   | \$m     |
|---|---------|
| Revenue (4,480 + 4,200 – (W8) 1,300)  | 7,380   |
| Cost of sales (2,690 + 2,940 – (W8) 1,300 + (W8) 24 + (W10) 10 + 25)        | (4,389) |
| Gross profit  | 2,991   |
| Distribution costs and administrative expenses (620 + 290 + (W9) 87)        | (997)   |
| Finance costs (50 + 80)   | (130)   |
| Share of profit of associate (148 × 25%)                                    | 37      |
| Profit before tax   | 1,901   |
| Income tax expense (330 + 274)  | (604)   |
| PROFIT FOR THE YEAR   | 1,297   |
| Other comprehensive income that will not be reclassified to profit or loss: |         |
| Gain on revaluation of property (30 + 7)                                    | 37      |
| Share of other comprehensive income of associate (8 × 25%)                  | 2       |
| Income tax expense relating to other comprehensive income (9 + 2)           | (11)    |
| Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax                         | 28      |
| TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR                                     | 1,325   |
| Profit attributable to:   |         |
| Owners of the parent (1,297 – 94)   | 1,203   |
| Non-controlling interests (W7)  | 94      |
|   | 1,297   |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to:                                 |         |
| Owners of the parent (1,325 – 95)   | 1,230   |
| Non-controlling interests (W7)  | 95      |
|   | 1,325   |

Workings

1 Group structure



2 Goodwill

|   | \$m | Group<br>\$m |
|---|-----|--------------|
| Consideration transferred               |     | 765          |
| Fair value of non-controlling interests |     | 188          |
| Fair value of net assets acquired:      |     |              |
| Share capital                           | 400 |              |
| Share premium                           | 140 |              |
| Retained earnings at acq'n              | 120 |              |
| Revaluation surplus at acq'n            | 40  |              |
| ∴ fair value adjustment                 | 100 |              |
| Total FV of net assets                  |     | (800)        |
|   |     | 153          |
| Less cumulative impairment losses       |     | (100)        |
|   |     | 53           |



|   |  |              |                 |                  |
|---|--|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 3 | <i>Investment in associate</i>   |              |                 |                  |
|   |  |              |                 | \$m              |
|   | Cost of associate  |              |                 | 203              |
|   | Share of post-acquisition retained reserves $[(263 + 62 - 195 - 54) \times 25\%]$              |              |                 | 19               |
|   | Less impairment losses on associate to date  |              |                 | <u>(0)</u>       |
|   |  |              |                 | 222              |
| 4 | <i>Consolidated retained earnings c/f</i>  |              |                 |                  |
|   |  | <i>Otway</i> | <i>Holgarth</i> | <i>Batterbee</i> |
|   |  | \$m          | \$m             | \$m              |
|   | Per question   | 1,128        | 809             | 263              |
|   | PUP (W8)   |              | (42)            |                  |
|   | Start up costs (W9)  |              | (87)            |                  |
|   | Depreciation on FV adjustment (W10)  |              | (40)            | (0)              |
|   | Less pre-acquisition   |              | <u>(120)</u>    | <u>(195)</u>     |
|   |  |              | 520             | 68               |
|   | Group share:   |              |                 |                  |
|   | Holgarth $[520 \times 80\%]$   | 416          |                 |                  |
|   | Batterbee $[68 \times 25\%]$   | 17           |                 |                  |
|   | Less: impairment losses on goodwill:   |              |                 |                  |
|   | Holgarth $[80\% \times 100]$ (W2)  | (80)         |                 |                  |
|   | Less: impairment losses on associate   |              |                 |                  |
|   | Batterbee  |              | (0)             |                  |
|   |  | <u>1,481</u> |                 |                  |
| 5 | <i>Consolidated revaluation surplus c/f</i>  |              |                 |                  |
|   |  | <i>Otway</i> | <i>Holgarth</i> | <i>Batterbee</i> |
|   |  | \$m          | \$m             | \$m              |
|   | Per question   | 142          | 70              | 62               |
|   | Less pre-acquisition   |              | <u>(40)</u>     | <u>(54)</u>      |
|   |  |              | 30              | 8                |
|   | Group share:   |              |                 |                  |
|   | Holgarth $[30 \times 80\%]$  | 24           |                 |                  |
|   | Batterbee $[8 \times 25\%]$  | 2            |                 |                  |
|   |  | <u>168</u>   |                 |                  |
| 6 | <i>Non-controlling interests (statement of financial position)</i>                             |              |                 |                  |
|   |  |              |                 | \$m              |
|   | At acquisition (W2)  |              |                 | 188              |
|   | Share of post acquisition retained earnings $[520 (W4) \times 20\%]$                           |              |                 | 104              |
|   | Share of post acquisition revaluation surplus $[30 (W5) \times 20\%]$                          |              |                 | 6                |
|   | Less: impairment losses on goodwill $[20\% \times 100]$ (W2)                                   |              |                 | <u>(20)</u>      |
|   |  |              |                 | 278              |
| 7 | <i>Non-controlling interests (statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income )</i> |              |                 |                  |
|   |  | <i>PFY</i>   | <i>TCI</i>      |                  |
|   |  | \$m          | \$m             |                  |
|   | Holgarth's PFY/TCI per question  | 616          | 621             |                  |
|   | Less impairment losses   | (25)         | (25)            |                  |
|   | Less PUP (W8)  | (24)         | (24)            |                  |
|   | Less start-up costs (W9)   | (87)         | (87)            |                  |
|   | Less FV depreciation (W10)   | <u>(10)</u>  | <u>(10)</u>     |                  |
|   |  | 470          | 475             |                  |
|   | $\times$ NCI share 20% =   | 94           | 95              |                  |

## 8 Intragroup trading

Cancel intragroup sales and purchases:

|        |               |             |             |
|--------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| DEBIT  | Revenue       | \$1,300,000 |             |
| CREDIT | Cost of sales |             | \$1,300,000 |

Unrealised profit (Holgarth to Otway):

|                                    | \$m       |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| In opening inventories (60 × 30%)  | 18        |
| In closing inventories (140 × 30%) | 42        |
| Increase (to cost of sales)        | <u>24</u> |

## 9 Start-up costs

IAS 38 *Intangible assets* states that start-up, training and promotional costs should all be written off as an expense as incurred as no intangible asset is created that can be recognised (the benefits cannot be sufficiently distinguished from internally generated goodwill, which is not recognised).

## 10 Fair value – Holgarth

|                               | At acquisition | Additional depreciation* | At year end |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------|
|                               | \$m            | \$m                      | \$m         |
| Property, plant and equipment |                |                          |             |
| (800 – 400 – 140 – 120 – 40)  | <u>100</u>     | <u>(40)</u>              | <u>60</u>   |
|                               | <u>100</u>     | <u>(40)</u>              | <u>60</u>   |

\* Additional depreciation =  $\frac{100}{10} = 10$  per annum to cost of sales × 4 years = 40

# 5 IFRS 12 Disclosure of interests in other entities

## FAST FORWARD

**IFRS 12 *Disclosure of interests in other entities*** requires disclosure of a reporting entity's interests in other entities in order to help identify the profit or loss and cash flows available to the reporting entity and determine the value of a current or future investment in the reporting entity.

## 5.1 Objective

IFRS 12 was published in 2011. It is effective for annual accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013, but earlier application is permitted.

The objective of the standard is to require entities to disclose information that enables the user of the financial statements to evaluate the nature of, and risks associated with, interests in other entities, and the effects of those interests on its financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

This is particularly relevant in light of the financial crisis and recent accounting scandals. The IASB believes that better information about interests in other entities is necessary to help users to identify the profit or loss and cash flows available to the reporting entity and to determine the value of a current or future investment in the reporting entity.

## 5.2 Scope

IFRS 12 covers disclosures for entities which have interests in:

- Subsidiaries
- Joint arrangements (ie joint operations and joint ventures, see [Chapter 13](#))
- Associates, and
- Unconsolidated structured entities.

## 5.3 Structured entities

IFRS 12 defines a structured entity.

### Key term

**Structured entity.** An entity that has been designed so that **voting or similar rights** are **not the dominant factor in deciding who controls** the entity, such as when any voting rights relate to administrative tasks only and the relevant activities are directed by means of contractual arrangements. (*IFRS 12*)

## 5.4 Main disclosures

The main disclosures required by IFRS 12 for an entity that has investments in other entities are as follows.

- (a) The **significant judgements and assumptions** made in determining whether the entity has control, joint control or significant influence of the other entities, and in determining the type of joint arrangement
- (b) Information to understand the **composition of the group** and the interest that non-controlling interests have in the group's activities and cash flows
- (c) The **nature, extent and financial effects** of interests in **joint arrangements and associates**, including the nature and effects of the entity's contractual relationship with other investors
- (d) The **nature and extent** of interests in **unconsolidated** structured entities
- (e) The nature and extent of **significant restrictions** on the entity's ability to **access or use assets and settle liabilities** of the group
- (f) The nature of, and changes in, the **risks associated with the entity's interests** in consolidated structured entities, joint ventures, associates and unconsolidated structured entities (e.g. commitments and contingent liabilities)
- (g) The **consequences of changes in the entity's ownership** interest in a subsidiary that do **not result in loss of control** (i.e. the effects on the equity attributable to owners of the parent)
- (h) The **consequences of losing control** of a subsidiary during the reporting period (i.e. the gain or loss, and the portion of it that relates to measuring any remaining investment at fair value, and the line item(s) in profit or loss in which the gain or loss is recognised (if not presented separately)).

## Chapter Roundup

- Go back to your earlier study material and practise more questions if you are unsure of basic consolidation techniques.
- **Definitions** are very important when looking at group accounts. Learn the definitions of:
 

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| – Control    | – Associate                |
| – Subsidiary | – Significant influence    |
| – Parent     | – Joint arrangement        |
| – Group      | – Non-controlling interest |
- IFRS 3 (revised) **requires recognition of contingent consideration, measured at fair value, at the acquisition date.**
- The non-controlling interest may be valued **either at fair value or at the non-controlling interest's proportionate share of the acquiree's identifiable net assets.**
- **IFRS 10 Consolidated financial statements** requires a parent to present **consolidated** financial statements.
- **Goodwill** should be calculated **after revaluing** the subsidiary company's assets.
- If the subsidiary does not incorporate the revaluation in its own accounts, it should be done as a **consolidation adjustment.**
- IFRS 3 (revised) does not allow combinations to be accounted for as a **uniting of interests; all combinations must be treated as acquisitions.**
- You should learn the three main indications of **when an acquirer exists.**
- **IAS 28** deals with accounting for associates and joint ventures. The definitions are important as they govern the accounting treatment, particularly '**significant influence**' and '**joint control**'.
- **IFRS 11** (see [Chapter 13](#)) and **IAS 28** require joint ventures to be accounted for using the equity method.
- The **equity method** should be applied in the consolidated accounts:
  - **Statement of financial position:** investment in associate at cost plus (or minus) the group's share of the associate's post-acquisition profits (or losses)
  - **Profit or loss** (statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income): group share of associate's profit after tax.
  - **Other comprehensive income** (statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income): group share of associate's other comprehensive income after tax.
- **IFRS 12 Disclosure of interests in other entities** requires disclosure of a reporting entity's interests in other entities in order to help identify the profit or loss and cash flows available to the reporting entity and determine the value of a current or future investment in the reporting entity.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 **Fill in the blanks** in the statements below, using the words in the box.  
Per IFRS 10, A is a parent of B if:
  - (a) A holds (1) ..... in B
  - (b) A can appoint, reassign or remove (2) .....
  - (c) A is exposed to (3) ..... from its involvement with B
- 2 If a company holds 20% or more of the shares of another company, it has significant influence.  
*True or false?*
- 3 What is significant influence?
- 4 What is a non-controlling interest?
- 5 How is the non-controlling interest on acquisition to be valued?
- 6 How should an investment in a subsidiary be accounted for in the separate financial statements of the parent?
- 7 Describe the requirement of IFRS 3 (revised) in relation to the revaluation of a subsidiary company's assets.
- 8 Under IFRS 13 *Fair value measurement*, what is meant by Level 1 inputs?
- 9 Which party to a business combination is the acquirer?
- 10 An associate is a / an ..... in which a investor has a ....., but which is not a subsidiary or a joint venture of the investor. *Complete the blanks.*
- 11 What is the effect of the equity method on the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and the statement of financial position?

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 (a) A majority of the voting rights  
(b) Key management personnel who can direct the relevant activities  
(c) Variable returns
- 2 True.
- 3 The power to participate but not to control.
- 4 The part of the net profit or loss and the net assets attributable to interests not owned by the parent.
- 5 Either at fair value or at the non-controlling interest's proportionate share of the acquiree's identifiable net assets.
- 6 (a) At cost using the equity method  
(b) At cost or revaluation as a long-term investment
- 7 Fair value is not affected by the acquirer's intentions. Therefore, only intentions after acquisition are reflected in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income after acquisition.
- 8 Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets that the entity can access at the measurement date.
- 9 The acquirer is the entity that obtains control of the other combining entities or businesses.
- 10 An associate is an **entity** in which an investor has a **significant influence**, but which is not a subsidiary or a joint venture of the investor.
- 11 (a) *Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income*. Investing entity includes its share of the earnings of the associate, by adding its share of profit after tax.  
(b) *Statement of financial position*. Investment in associates is included in assets at cost. This will increase or decrease each year according to whether the associate makes a profit or loss.

Now try the question below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level        | Marks | Time    |
|--------|--------------|-------|---------|
| Q16    | Introductory | 18    | 32 mins |

# 13

## Complex groups and joint arrangements

| Topic list                            | Syllabus reference |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Complex groups                      | D1                 |
| 2 Consolidating sub-subsidiaries      | D1                 |
| 3 Direct holdings in sub-subsidiaries | D1                 |
| 4 IFRS 11 Joint arrangements          | D1                 |

### Introduction

This chapter introduces the first of several more complicated consolidation topics. The best way to tackle these questions is to be logical and to carry out the consolidation on a **step by step** basis.

In questions of this nature, it is very helpful to sketch a **diagram of the group structure**, as we have done. This clarifies the situation and it should point you in the right direction: always sketch the group structure as your first working and double check it against the information in the question.

In [Chapter 12](#) you met the concept of the 'joint venture', a form of joint arrangement which is equity accounted under IAS 28. **IFRS 11** (Section 4) covers all types of **joint arrangements**. It establishes principles for how joint operations should be distinguished from joint ventures and how to account for each type of joint arrangement in individual accounts and in consolidated accounts.

## Study guide

|     |  | Intellectual level |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| D1  | Group accounting including statement of cash flows   |                    |
| (a) | Apply the method of accounting for business combinations including complex group structures                  | 3                  |
| (g) | Outline and apply the key definitions and accounting methods which relate to interests in joint arrangements | 3                  |

## Exam guide

If the groups questions does not involve an acquisition or disposal or a statement of cash flows, then it is likely to involve a complex group.

## 1 Complex groups

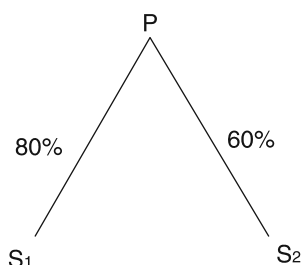
### FAST FORWARD

When a holding company has **several subsidiaries**, the consolidated statement of financial position shows a single figure for non-controlling interests and for goodwill arising on consolidation. In cases where there are several subsidiary companies the technique is to open up a single non-controlling interest working and a single goodwill working.

### 1.1 Introduction

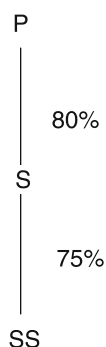
In this section we shall consider how the principles of statement of financial position consolidation may be applied to more complex structures of companies within a group.

#### (a) Several subsidiary companies



You have already seen this type of structure in your previous studies.

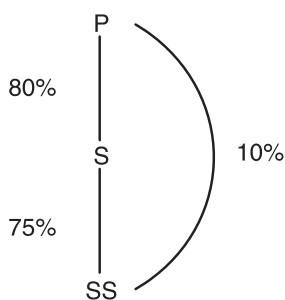
#### (b) Sub-subsidiaries



P holds a controlling interest in S which in turn holds a controlling interest in SS. SS is therefore a subsidiary of a subsidiary of P, in other words, a *sub-subsidiary* of P.



(c) **Direct holdings in sub-subsidiaries: 'D' shaped groups**



In this example, SS is a sub-subsidiary of P with additional shares held directly by P.

In practice, groups are usually larger, and therefore more complex, but the procedures for consolidation of large groups will not differ from those we shall now describe for smaller ones.

## 1.2 A parent company which has several subsidiaries

Where a company P has several subsidiaries  $S_1, S_2, S_3$  and so on, the technique for consolidation is exactly as previously described. **Cancellation** is from the holding company, which has assets of investments in subsidiaries  $S_1, S_2, S_3$ , to each of the several subsidiaries.

The consolidated statement of financial position will show:

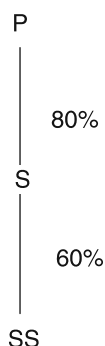
- (a) A single figure for **non-controlling interest**, and
- (b) A single figure for **goodwill** arising.

A single working should be used for each of the constituents of the consolidated statement of financial position: one working for goodwill, one for non-controlling interest, one for retained earnings (reserves), and so on.

## 1.3 Sub-subsidiaries

A slightly different problem arises when there are sub-subsidiaries in the group, which is how should we **identify the non-controlling interest** in the retained earnings of the group? Suppose P owns 80% of the equity of S, and that S in turn owns 60% of the equity of SS.

It would appear that in this situation:



- (a) P owns 80% of 60% = 48% of SS
- (b) The non-controlling interest in S owns 20% of 60% = 12% of SS
- (c) The non-controlling interest in SS itself owns the remaining 40% of the SS equity

SS is nevertheless a **sub-subsidiary** of P, because it is a subsidiary of S which in turn is a subsidiary of P. The chain of control thus makes SS a sub-subsidiary of P which owns only 48% of its equity.

The total non-controlling interest in SS may be checked by considering a **dividend** of \$100 paid by SS where S then distributes its share of this dividend in full to its own shareholders.

|                                 |                      |            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
|                                 |                      | \$         |
| S will receive                  | \$60                 |            |
| P will receive                  | $80\% \times \$60 =$ | 48         |
| Leaving for the total NCI in SS |                      | <u>52</u>  |
|                                 |                      | <u>100</u> |



## Question

Effective interest

Top owns 60% of the equity of Middle Co, which owns 75% of the equity of Bottom Co. What is Top Co's effective holding in Bottom Co?

## Answer

Top owns 60% of 75% of Bottom Co = 45%.

## 1.4 Date of effective control

The date the sub-subsidiary comes under the **control of the holding company** is either:

- (a) The date P acquired S if S already holds shares in SS, or
- (b) If S acquires shares in SS later, then that later date.

You need to think about the dates of acquisition and the order in which the group is built up when you identify which balances to select as the **pre-acquisition** reserves of the sub-subsidiary.

### Exam focus point

The examiner has strongly indicated that fair value NCI will generally be tested with more difficult group topics in 2011. However, this chapter uses examples where the NCI is valued at its proportionate share of the subsidiary's identifiable net assets. Fair value NCI is shown as an alternative. This is to enable you to learn the new techniques. Fair value NCI is used in the questions in the exam question bank. You should keep an eye on *Student Accountant* magazine for articles by the examiner giving further advice on this point.

## 2 Consolidating sub-subsidiaries

6/10

### FAST FORWARD

When dealing with **sub-subsidiaries**, you will need to calculate effective interest owned by the group and by the non-controlling interest. The date of acquisition is important when dealing with sub-subsidiaries. Remember that it is the post-acquisition reserves from a group perspective which are important.

### Exam focus point

Don't panic when a question seems very complicated – sketch the group structure and analyse the information in the question methodically.

The basic consolidation method is as follows.

- (a) **Net assets:** show what the group controls.
- (b) **Equity (capital and reserves):** show who owns the net assets included elsewhere in the statement of financial position. Reserves (retained earnings), therefore, are based on **effective holdings**.

The basic steps are exactly as you have seen in simpler group structures. As you will see in the examples in this chapter, there are some new complications to be aware of in the workings for **goodwill** and **non-controlling interests**.

## 2.1 Example: Subsidiary acquired first

The draft statements of financial position of P Co, S Co and SS Co on 30 June 20X7 were as follows.

|                               | <i>P Co</i><br>\$ | <i>S Co</i><br>\$ | <i>SS Co</i><br>\$ |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Assets</i>                 |                   |                   |                    |
| Non-current assets            |                   |                   |                    |
| Tangible assets               | 105,000           | 125,000           | 180,000            |
| Investments, at cost          |                   |                   |                    |
| 80,000 shares in S Co         | 120,000           | —                 | —                  |
| 60,000 shares in SS Co        | —                 | 110,000           | —                  |
| Current assets                | 80,000            | 70,000            | 60,000             |
|                               | <u>305,000</u>    | <u>305,000</u>    | <u>240,000</u>     |
| <i>Equity and liabilities</i> |                   |                   |                    |
| Equity                        |                   |                   |                    |
| Ordinary shares of \$1 each   | 80,000            | 100,000           | 100,000            |
| Retained earnings             | 195,000           | 170,000           | 115,000            |
|                               | <u>275,000</u>    | <u>270,000</u>    | <u>215,000</u>     |
| Payables                      | 30,000            | 35,000            | 25,000             |
|                               | <u>305,000</u>    | <u>305,000</u>    | <u>240,000</u>     |

P Co acquired its shares in S Co on 1 July 20X4 when the reserves of S Co stood at \$40,000; and

S Co acquired its shares in SS Co on 1 July 20X5 when the reserves of SS Co stood at \$50,000.

It is the group's policy to measure the non-controlling interest at acquisition at its proportionate share of the fair value of the subsidiary's net assets.

### Required

Prepare the draft consolidated statement of financial position of P Group at 30 June 20X7.

*Note.* Assume no impairment of goodwill.

## Solution

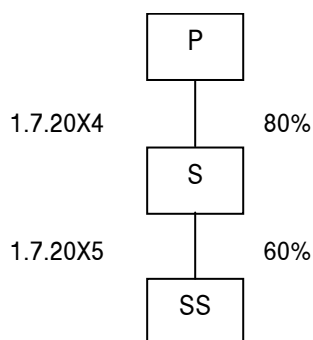
This is **two acquisitions** from the point of view of the P group. In 20X4, the group buys 80% of S. Then in 20X5 S (which is now part of the P group) buys 60% of SS.

P buys 80% of S, then S (80% of S from the group's point of view) buys 60% of SS.

Having calculated the non-controlling interest and the P group interest (see working 1 below), the workings can be constructed. You should, however, note the following.

- Group structure working** (see working 1)
- Goodwill working:** compare the costs of investments with the effective group interests acquired (80% of S Co and 48% of SS Co).
- Retained earnings working:** bring in the share of S Co's and SS Co's post-acquisition retained earnings in the normal way.
- Non-controlling interest working:** calculate non-controlling interests in the usual way, using a 20% NCI in S Co's post-acquisition retained earnings and a 52% non-controlling interests in SS Co's post acquisition retained earnings (52%). You will need to adjust this for the NCI share of S Co's cost of investment in SS Co.

1 *Group structure*



Effective interests in SS:  
 P Group (80% × 60%) = 48%  
 NCI = 52%

2 *Goodwill*

|   | <i>P in S</i>   |               | <i>S in SS</i>  |               |
|---|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
|   | \$              | \$            | \$              | \$            |
| Consideration transferred               |                 | 120,000       | (80% × 110,000) | 88,000        |
| Non-controlling interests               | (20% × 140,000) | 28,000        | (52% × 150,000) | 78,000        |
| Fair value of identifiable NA acquired: |                 |               |                 |               |
| Share capital                           | 100,000         |               | 100,000         |               |
| Retained earnings                       | <u>40,000</u>   |               | <u>50,000</u>   |               |
|   |                 | (140,000)     |                 | (150,000)     |
|   |                 | <u>8,000</u>  |                 | <u>16,000</u> |
|   |                 | <u>24,000</u> |                 |               |

3 *Retained earnings*

|                           | <i>P Co</i>    | <i>S Co</i>    | <i>SS Co</i>  |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
|                           | \$             | \$             | \$            |
| Per question              | 195,000        | 170,000        | 115,000       |
| Pre-acquisition           |                | (40,000)       | (50,000)      |
| Post-acquisition          |                | <u>130,000</u> | <u>65,000</u> |
| Group share:              |                |                |               |
| In S Co (\$130,000 × 80%) | 104,000        |                |               |
| In SS Co (\$65,000 × 48%) | <u>31,200</u>  |                |               |
| Group retained earnings   | <u>330,200</u> |                |               |

4 *Non-controlling interests*

|  | <i>S</i>          | <i>SS</i>      |
|--|-------------------|----------------|
|  | \$                | \$             |
| At acquisition (W2)  | 28,000            | 78,000         |
| Share of post acquisition retained earnings (\$130,000(W3) × 20%)/(\$65,000(W3) × 52%) | 26,000            | 33,800         |
| Less NCI in investment in SS (\$110,000 × 20%)   | (22,000)          | —              |
|  | <u>32,000</u>     | <u>111,800</u> |
|  | <u>\$ 143,800</u> |                |

P Co

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 30 JUNE 20X7

|  | \$             |
|--|----------------|
| <i>Assets</i>                          |                |
| Non-current assets                     |                |
| Tangible assets                        | 410,000        |
| Goodwill                               | 24,000         |
| Current assets                         | <u>210,000</u> |
|  | <u>644,000</u> |
| <i>Equity</i>                          |                |
| Ordinary shares of \$1 each fully paid | 80,000         |
| Retained earnings                      | <u>330,200</u> |
|  | 410,200        |
| Non-controlling interest               | <u>143,800</u> |
|  | 554,000        |
| Payables                               | <u>90,000</u>  |
|  | <u>644,000</u> |

**Note.** The cost of the investment in SS Co must be split between the non-controlling interest and the goodwill workings to ensure that we have only P Co's share of the goodwill arising in the S Co subgroup appearing in the consolidated statement of financial position. This is done by taking the group share of the subsidiary's 'cost' in the goodwill working and by deducting the cost from the net assets allocated to the non-controlling interests.

## 2.2 Date of acquisition

Care must be taken when consolidating sub-subsidiaries, because (usually) either:

- (a) The parent company acquired the subsidiary **before** the subsidiary bought the sub-subsidiary (as in the example above); *OR*
- (b) The parent holding company acquired the subsidiary **after** the subsidiary bought the sub-subsidiary

Depending on whether (a) or (b) is the case, the retained earnings of the subsidiary at acquisition will be different.

The rule to remember here, when considering pre- and post-acquisition profits, is that we are only interested in the consolidated results of the **parent company**. We will use the example above to demonstrate the required approach.

## 2.3 Example: Sub-subsidiary acquired first

Again using the figures in Section 2.1, assume that:

- (a) S Co purchased its holding in SS Co on 1 July 20X4
- (b) P Co purchased its holding in S Co on 1 July 20X5

The retained earnings figures on the respective dates of acquisition are the same, but on the date P Co purchased its holding in S Co, the retained earnings of SS Co were \$60,000.

It is the group's policy to measure the non-controlling interest at its proportionate share of the fair value of the subsidiary's net assets.

## Solution

The point here is that SS Co only became part of the P group on 1 July 20X5, *not* on 1 July 20X4. This means that only the retained earnings of SS Co arising *after* 1 July 20X5 can be included in the post-acquisition reserves of P Co group. Goodwill arising on the acquisition will be calculated by comparing P's share of S's cost of the investment by S in SS to the effective group interests acquired represented by the share capital of SS and its retained earnings **at the date P acquired S** (here \$60,000).

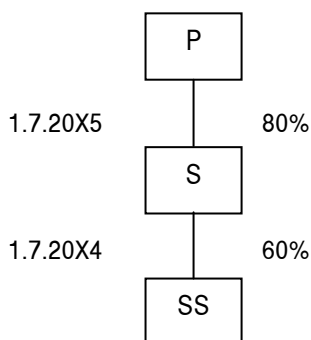
P Co

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 20X7

|                                      | \$             |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Non-current assets</b>            |                |
| Tangible                             | 410,000        |
| Goodwill (W2)                        | 19,200         |
|                                      | <u>429,200</u> |
| <b>Current assets</b>                | <u>210,000</u> |
|                                      | <u>639,200</u> |
| <b>Equity and liabilities</b>        |                |
| Ordinary shares \$1 each, fully paid | 80,000         |
| Retained earnings (W3)               | 325,400        |
|                                      | <u>405,400</u> |
| Non-controlling interest (W4)        | 143,800        |
|                                      | <u>549,200</u> |
| Payables                             | 90,000         |
|                                      | <u>639,200</u> |

## Workings

### 1 Group structure



Retained earnings of SS are as at 1 July 20X5 when P got control of S

P owns an effective interest of 48% in SS. NCI in SS is 52%.

### 2 Goodwill

The working should be set out as:

|   | <i>P in S</i>   |                  | <i>S in SS</i>  |                  |
|---|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
|   | \$              | \$               | \$              | \$               |
| Consideration transferred               |                 | 120,000          | (80% × 110,000) | 88,000           |
| Non-controlling interests               | (20% × 140,000) | 28,000           | (52% × 160,000) | 83,200           |
| Fair value of identifiable NA acquired: |                 |                  |                 |                  |
| Share capital                           | 100,000         |                  | 100,000         |                  |
| Retained earnings                       | 40,000          |                  | 60,000          |                  |
|   |                 | <u>(140,000)</u> |                 | <u>(160,000)</u> |
|   |                 | 8,000            |                 | 11,200           |
|   |                 | <u>19,200</u>    |                 |                  |

**Note.** retained earnings of SS are as at 1 July 20X5 when P got control of S.

### 3 Retained earnings

|                        | \$             |
|------------------------|----------------|
| P Co (as above)        | 195,000        |
| S Co (as above)        | 104,000        |
| SS Co (115 – 60) × 48% | 26,400         |
|                        | <u>325,400</u> |

#### 4 Non-controlling interests

The cost of investment in SS is again deducted as the NCI is being calculated on the net assets that have been consolidated (see note above).

|   | S             | SS             |
|---|---------------|----------------|
|   | \$            | \$             |
| At acquisition (W2)   | 28,000        | 83,200         |
| Share of post-acquisition retained earnings (S Co as above)/((115 – 60) (W3) × 52%) | 26,000        | 28,600         |
| Less NCI in investment in SS (\$110,000 × 20%)                                      | (22,000)      | –              |
|   | <u>32,000</u> | <u>111,800</u> |
|   | \$ 143,800    |                |

## 2.4 Example: Subsidiary acquired first: non-controlling interest at fair value

### Exam focus point

The examiner has indicated that fair value NCI will be tested with more difficult group topics.

The draft statements of financial position of P Co, S Co and SS Co on 30 June 20X7 were as follows.

|                               | P Co           | S Co           | SS Co          |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                               | \$             | \$             | \$             |
| <b>Assets</b>                 |                |                |                |
| Non-current assets            |                |                |                |
| Tangible assets               | 105,000        | 125,000        | 180,000        |
| Investments, at cost          |                |                |                |
| 80,000 shares in S Co         | 120,000        | –              | –              |
| 60,000 shares in SS Co        | –              | 110,000        | –              |
| Current assets                | <u>80,000</u>  | <u>70,000</u>  | <u>60,000</u>  |
|                               | <u>305,000</u> | <u>305,000</u> | <u>240,000</u> |
| <b>Equity and liabilities</b> |                |                |                |
| Equity                        |                |                |                |
| Ordinary shares of \$1 each   | 80,000         | 100,000        | 100,000        |
| Retained earnings             | <u>195,000</u> | <u>170,000</u> | <u>115,000</u> |
|                               | <u>275,000</u> | <u>270,000</u> | <u>215,000</u> |
| Payables                      | <u>30,000</u>  | <u>35,000</u>  | <u>25,000</u>  |
|                               | <u>305,000</u> | <u>305,000</u> | <u>240,000</u> |

P Co acquired its shares in S Co on 1 July 20X4 when the reserves of S Co stood at \$40,000; and

S Co acquired its shares in SS Co on 1 July 20X5 when the reserves of SS Co stood at \$50,000.

It is the group's policy to measure the non-controlling interest at fair value at the date of acquisition. The fair value of the non-controlling interests in S on 1 July 20X4 was \$29,000. The fair value of the 52% non-controlling interest on 1 July 20X5 was \$80,000.

### Required

Prepare the draft consolidated statement of financial position of P Group at 30 June 20X7.

*Note.* Assume no impairment of goodwill.

## Solution

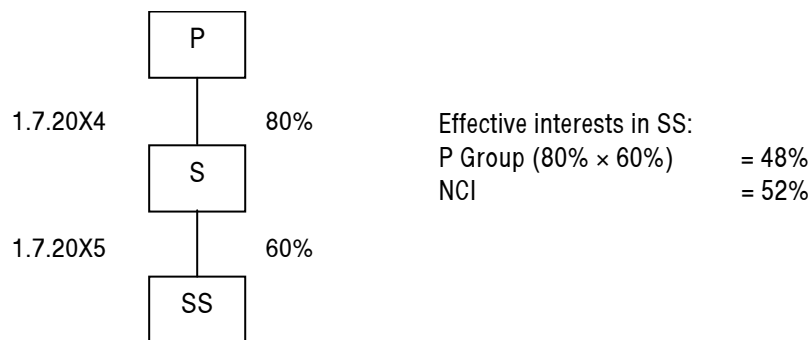
The group's policy on measurement of the non-controlling interest at acquisition does not change the steps we follow in the consolidation.

P CO

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 30 JUNE 20X7

|  | \$             |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                          |                |
| Non-current assets                     |                |
| Tangible assets                        | 410,000        |
| Goodwill (W2)                          | 27,000         |
| Current assets                         | <u>210,000</u> |
|  | <u>647,000</u> |
| <b>Equity</b>                          |                |
| Ordinary shares of \$1 each fully paid | 80,000         |
| Retained earnings (W3)                 | <u>330,200</u> |
|  | 410,200        |
| Non-controlling interest (W4)          | <u>146,800</u> |
|  | 557,000        |
| Payables                               | <u>90,000</u>  |
|  | <u>647,000</u> |

### 1 Group structure



### 2 Goodwill

|  | <i>P in S</i> |              | <i>S in SS</i>    |               |
|--|---------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
|  | \$            | \$           | \$                | \$            |
| Consideration transferred                      |               | 120,000      | (\$110,000 × 80%) | 88,000        |
| Non-controlling interests (at FV)              |               | 29,000       |                   | 80,000        |
| Fair value of identifiable net assets acquired |               |              |                   |               |
| Share capital                                  | 100,000       |              | 100,000           |               |
| Retained earnings                              | <u>40,000</u> |              | <u>50,000</u>     |               |
|  |               | (140,000)    |                   | (150,000)     |
|  |               | <u>9,000</u> |                   | <u>18,000</u> |
|  |               | \$27,000     |                   |               |



### 3 Retained earnings

|                           | <i>P Co</i>    | <i>S Co</i>    | <i>SS Co</i>  |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
|                           | \$             | \$             | \$            |
| Per question              | 195,000        | 170,000        | 115,000       |
| Pre-acquisition           |                | (40,000)       | (50,000)      |
| Post-acquisition          |                | <u>130,000</u> | <u>65,000</u> |
| Group share:              |                |                |               |
| In S Co (\$130,000 × 80%) | 104,000        |                |               |
| In SS Co (\$65,000 × 48%) | <u>31,200</u>  |                |               |
| Group retained earnings   | <u>330,200</u> |                |               |

### 4 Non-controlling interests

The non-controlling interest working in this example has one extra step: adding on the non-controlling interest in goodwill as calculated in working 2. The cost of investment in SS is again deducted as the NCI is being calculated on the net assets that have been consolidated (see note above).

|  | <i>S</i>        | <i>SS</i> |
|--|-----------------|-----------|
|  | \$              | \$        |
| At acquisition (W2)  | 29,000          | 80,000    |
| Share of post acquisition retained earnings (\$130,000(W3) × 20%)/(\$65,000(W3) × 52%) | 26,000          | 33,800    |
| Less NCI in investment in SS (\$110,000 × 20%)   | <u>(22,000)</u> | <u>—</u>  |
|  | 33,000          | 113,800   |
|  | \$ 146,800      |           |



## Question

### Sub-subsidiary

The statements of financial position of Antelope Co, Yak Co and Zebra Co at 31 March 20X4 are summarised as follows.

|                             | <i>Antelope Co</i> |                | <i>Yak Co</i> |                | <i>Zebra Co</i> |               |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                             | \$                 | \$             | \$            | \$             | \$              | \$            |
| <b>Assets</b>               |                    |                |               |                |                 |               |
| Non-current assets          |                    |                |               |                |                 |               |
| Freehold property           |                    | 100,000        |               | 100,000        |                 | —             |
| Plant and machinery         |                    | <u>210,000</u> |               | <u>80,000</u>  |                 | <u>3,000</u>  |
|                             |                    | 310,000        |               | 180,000        |                 | 3,000         |
| Investments in subsidiaries |                    |                |               |                |                 |               |
| Shares, at cost             | 110,000            |                | 6,200         |                |                 | —             |
| Loan account                | —                  |                | 3,800         |                |                 | —             |
| Current accounts            | <u>10,000</u>      |                | <u>12,200</u> |                |                 | —             |
|                             |                    | 120,000        |               | 22,200         |                 | 3,000         |
| Current assets              |                    |                |               |                |                 |               |
| Inventories                 | 170,000            |                | 20,500        |                | 15,000          |               |
| Receivables                 | 140,000            |                | 50,000        |                | 1,000           |               |
| Cash at bank                | <u>60,000</u>      |                | <u>16,500</u> |                | <u>4,000</u>    |               |
|                             |                    | <u>370,000</u> |               | <u>87,000</u>  |                 | <u>20,000</u> |
|                             |                    | <u>800,000</u> |               | <u>289,200</u> |                 | <u>23,000</u> |

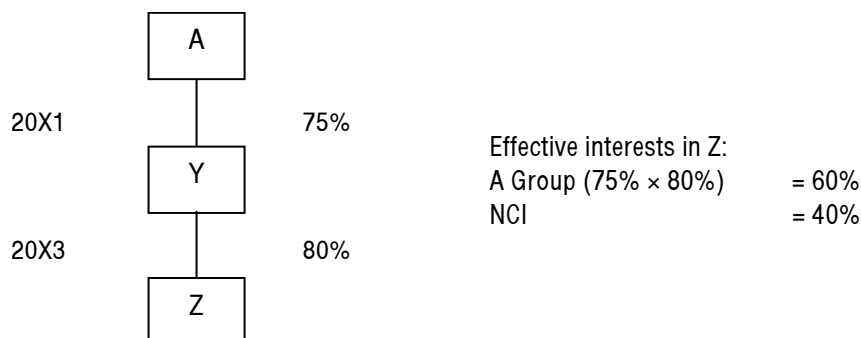
|                               | Antelope Co    |                | Yak Co         |                | Zebra Co       |               |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
|                               | \$             | \$             | \$             | \$             | \$             | \$            |
| <i>Equity and liabilities</i> |                |                |                |                |                |               |
| <i>Equity</i>                 |                |                |                |                |                |               |
| Ordinary share capital        | 200,000        |                | 100,000        |                | 10,000         |               |
| Retained earnings             | <u>379,600</u> |                | <u>129,200</u> |                | <u>(1,000)</u> |               |
|                               |                | 579,600        |                | 229,200        |                | 9,000         |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>    |                |                |                |                |                |               |
| Trade payables                | 160,400        |                | 40,200         |                | 800            |               |
| Due to Antelope Co            | —              |                | 12,800         |                | 600            |               |
| Due to Yak Co                 | —              |                |                |                | 12,600         |               |
| Taxation                      | 60,000         |                | 7,000          |                | —              |               |
|                               |                |                | —              |                | —              |               |
|                               |                |                | —              |                | —              |               |
|                               |                | <u>220,400</u> |                | <u>60,000</u>  |                | <u>14,000</u> |
|                               |                | <u>800,000</u> |                | <u>289,200</u> |                | <u>23,000</u> |

Antelope Co acquired 75% of the shares of Yak Co in 20X1 when the credit balance on the retained earnings of that company was \$40,000. No dividends have been paid since that date. Yak Co acquired 80% of the shares in Zebra Co in 20X3 when there was a debit balance on the retained earnings of that company of \$3,000. Subsequently \$500 was received by Zebra Co and credited to its retained earnings, representing the recovery of an irrecoverable debt written off before the acquisition of Zebra's shares by Yak Co. During the year to 31 March 20X4 Yak Co purchased inventory from Antelope Co for \$20,000 which included a profit mark-up of \$4,000 for Antelope Co. At 31 March 20X4 one half of this amount was still held in the inventories of Yak Co. Group accounting policies are to make a full allowance for unrealised intra-group profits.

It is the group's policy to measure the non-controlling interest at its proportionate share of the fair value of the subsidiary's net assets.

Prepare the draft consolidated statement of financial position of Antelope Co at 31 March 20X4. (Assume no impairment of goodwill.)

## Answer



## Workings

### 1 Goodwill

|   | <i>A in Y</i>   |              | <i>Y in Z</i>  |            |
|---|-----------------|--------------|----------------|------------|
|   | \$              | \$           | \$             | \$         |
| Consideration transferred               |                 | 110,000      | (75% × 6,200)  | 4,650      |
| Non-controlling interests               | (25% × 140,000) | 35,000       | (40% × 7,500)  | 3,000      |
| Fair value of identifiable NA acquired: |                 |              |                |            |
| Share capital                           | 100,000         |              | 10,000         |            |
| Retained earnings: (\$3,000) + \$500    | <u>40,000</u>   |              | <u>(2,500)</u> |            |
|   |                 | (140,000)    |                | (7,500)    |
|   |                 | <u>5,000</u> |                | <u>150</u> |
|   |                 | \$5,150      |                |            |

### 2 Retained earnings

|  | <i>Antelope</i> | <i>Yak</i>     | <i>Zebra</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
|  | \$              | \$             | \$           |
| Per question                                       | 379,600         | 129,200        | (1,000)      |
| Adjustment irrecoverable recovery                  |                 |                | (500)        |
| Pre-acquisition profit/losses                      |                 | (40,000)       | 3,000        |
| Post-acquisition profits                           |                 | <u>89,200</u>  | <u>1,500</u> |
| Group share  |                 |                |              |
| In Yak (\$89,200 × 75%)                            | 66,900          |                |              |
| In Zebra (\$1,500 × 60%)                           | 900             |                |              |
| Unrealised profit in inventories sitting in parent |                 |                |              |
| (\$4,000) × ½                                      |                 | (2,000)        |              |
| Group retained earnings                            |                 | <u>445,400</u> |              |

### 3 Non-controlling interests

|  | <i>Yak</i>    | <i>Zebra</i> |
|--|---------------|--------------|
|  | \$            | \$           |
| NCI at acquisition (W1)  | 35,000        | 3,000        |
| NCI in post acquisition retained earnings (\$89,200 (W2) × 25%)/(\$1,500 (W2) × 40%) | 22,300        | 600          |
| Less NCI share of investment in Zebra (\$6,200 × 25%)                                | (1,550)       | —            |
|  | <u>55,750</u> | <u>3,600</u> |
|  | 59,350        |              |

ANTELOPE CO  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 20X4

|                                 | \$            | \$             |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>Assets</i>                   |               |                |
| Non-current assets              |               |                |
| Freehold property               |               | 200,000        |
| Plant and machinery             |               | 293,000        |
|                                 |               | <u>493,000</u> |
| Goodwill (W1)                   |               | <u>5,150</u>   |
| Current assets                  |               | 498,150        |
| Inventories \$(205,500 – 2,000) | 203,500       |                |
| Receivables                     | 191,000       |                |
| Cash at bank                    | <u>80,500</u> |                |
|                                 |               | <u>475,000</u> |
|                                 |               | <u>973,150</u> |
| <i>Equity and liabilities</i>   |               |                |
| Equity                          |               |                |
| Ordinary share capital          |               | 200,000        |
| Retained earnings (W2)          |               | <u>445,400</u> |
| Shareholders' funds             |               | 645,400        |
| Non-controlling interests (W3)  |               | <u>59,350</u>  |
|                                 |               | <u>704,750</u> |
| Current liabilities             |               |                |
| Trade payables                  | 201,400       |                |
| Taxation                        | <u>67,000</u> |                |
|                                 |               | <u>268,400</u> |
|                                 |               | <u>973,150</u> |

## 2.5 Section summary

You should follow this **step by step approach** in all questions using the single-stage method. This applies to Section 3 below as well.

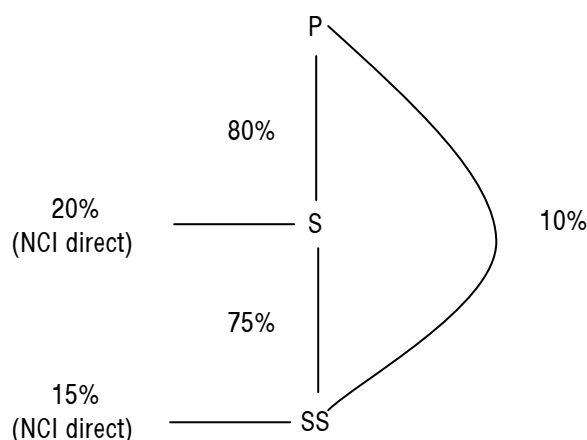
- Step 1** Sketch the group **structure** and check it to the question.
- Step 2** **Add details** to the sketch of dates of acquisition, holdings acquired (percentage and nominal values) and cost.
- Step 3** Draw up a **proforma for the statement of financial position**.
- Step 4** **Work** methodically down the statement of financial position, transferring figures to proforma or workings.
- Step 5** Use the notes in the question to make adjustments such as eliminating intra-group balances and unrealised profits.
- Step 6** **Goodwill working**. Compare consideration transferred with **effective** group interests acquired.
- Step 7** **Reserves working**. Include the group share of subsidiary and sub-subsidiary post-acquisition retained earnings (effective holdings again).
- Step 8** **Non-controlling interests working**: total NCI in subsidiary plus total NCI in sub-subsidiary.
- Step 9** Prepare the **consolidated statement of financial position** (and statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income if required).

### 3 Direct holdings in sub-subsidiaries

#### FAST FORWARD

'D shaped' groups are consolidated in the same way as a typical sub-subsidiary situation. It is the structure and non-controlling interest calculations that are important.

Consider the following structure, sometimes called a 'D-shaped' group.



In the structure above, there is:

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| (a) A <b>direct</b> non-controlling share in S of                          | <u>20%</u> |
| (b) A <b>direct</b> non-controlling share in SS of                         | 15%        |
| (c) An <b>indirect</b> non-controlling share in SS of $20\% \times 75\% =$ | <u>15%</u> |
|  | <u>30%</u> |

The effective interest in SS is:

|                          |   |              |
|--------------------------|---|--------------|
| Group $80\% \times 75\%$ | = | 60% interest |
| Direct holding           |   | <u>10%</u>   |
|                          |   | 70%          |
| $\therefore$ NCI         |   | <u>30%</u>   |
|                          |   | <u>100%</u>  |

Having ascertained the structure and non-controlling interests, proceed as for a typical sub-subsidiary situation.



#### Question

#### 'D' shaped group

The draft statements of financial position of Hulk Co, Molehill Co and Pimple Co as at 31 May 20X5 are as follows.

|                                   | Hulk Co       |                | Molehill Co   |                | Pimple Co |                |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
|                                   | \$            | \$             | \$            | \$             | \$        | \$             |
| Assets                            |               |                |               |                |           |                |
| Non-current assets                |               |                |               |                |           |                |
| Tangible assets                   |               | 90,000         |               | 60,000         |           | 60,000         |
| Investments in subsidiaries(cost) |               |                |               |                |           |                |
| Shares in Molehill Co             | 90,000        |                | —             |                | —         |                |
| Shares in Pimple Co               | <u>25,000</u> |                | <u>42,000</u> |                | <u>—</u>  |                |
|                                   |               | 115,000        |               | 42,000         |           | —              |
|                                   |               | <u>205,000</u> |               | <u>102,000</u> |           | <u>60,000</u>  |
| Current assets                    |               | 40,000         |               | 50,000         |           | 40,000         |
|                                   |               | <u>245,000</u> |               | <u>152,000</u> |           | <u>100,000</u> |

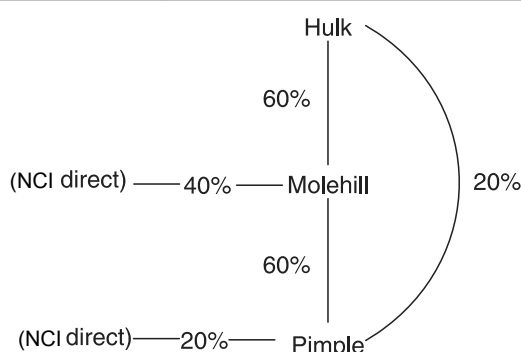
|                         | <i>Hulk Co</i> |                | <i>Molehill Co</i> |                | <i>Pimple Co</i> |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
|                         | \$             | \$             | \$                 | \$             | \$               | \$             |
| Equity and liabilities  |                |                |                    |                |                  |                |
| Equity                  |                |                |                    |                |                  |                |
| Ordinary shares \$1     | 100,000        |                | 50,000             |                | 50,000           |                |
| Revaluation surplus     | 50,000         |                | 20,000             |                |                  |                |
| Retained earnings       | <u>45,000</u>  |                | <u>32,000</u>      |                | <u>25,000</u>    |                |
|                         |                | 195,000        |                    | 102,000        |                  | 75,000         |
| Non-current liabilities |                |                |                    |                |                  |                |
| 12% loan                |                | <u>—</u>       |                    | <u>10,000</u>  |                  | <u>—</u>       |
|                         |                | 195,000        |                    | 112,000        |                  | 75,000         |
| Current liabilities     |                |                |                    |                |                  |                |
| Payables                |                | <u>50,000</u>  |                    | <u>40,000</u>  |                  | <u>25,000</u>  |
|                         |                | <u>245,000</u> |                    | <u>152,000</u> |                  | <u>100,000</u> |

- (a) Hulk Co acquired 60% of the shares in Molehill on 1 January 20X3 when the balance on that company's retained earnings was \$8,000 (credit) and there was no share premium account.
- (b) Hulk acquired 20% of the shares of Pimple Co and Molehill acquired 60% of the shares of Pimple Co on 1 January 20X4 when that company's retained earnings stood at \$15,000.
- (c) There has been no payment of dividends by either Molehill or Pimple since they became subsidiaries.
- (d) There was no impairment of goodwill.
- (e) It is the group's policy to measure the non-controlling interest at acquisition at its proportionate share of the fair value of the subsidiary's net assets.

#### Required

Prepare the consolidated statement of financial position of Hulk Co as at 31 May 20X5.

### Answer



Effective interests in Pimple:  
Hulk (60% × 60% + 20%) = 56%  
∴ NCI = 44%

**Note.** Pimple comes into Hulk's control on 1 January 20X4. As the investments in Pimple by Hulk and Molehill both happened on the same date, only one goodwill calculation is needed in respect of Pimple.

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| The direct non-controlling interest in Molehill Co is                       | <u>40%</u> |
| The direct non-controlling interest in Pimple Co is                         | <u>20%</u> |
| The indirect non-controlling interest in Pimple Co is (40% of 60%)          | <u>24%</u> |
| The total non-controlling interest in Pimple Co is                          | <u>44%</u> |
| The group share of Molehill Co is 60% and of Pimple Co is (100 – 44)% = 56% |            |

# Workings

## 1 Goodwill

|   | Hulk in Molehill |                 | Hulk and Molehill in Pimple |                 |
|---|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
|   | \$               | \$              | \$                          | \$              |
| Consideration transferred - direct                          |                  | 90,000          |                             | 25,000          |
| - indirect  |                  |                 | (60% × 42,000)              | 25,200          |
| Non-controlling interests (\$58,000 × 40%)/(\$65,000 × 44%) |                  | 23,200          |                             | 28,600          |
| Fair value at NA acquired                                   |                  |                 |                             |                 |
| Share capital   | 50,000           |                 | 50,000                      |                 |
| Retained earnings   | <u>8,000</u>     |                 | <u>15,000</u>               |                 |
|   |                  | <u>(58,000)</u> |                             | <u>(65,000)</u> |
|   |                  | <u>55,200</u>   |                             | <u>13,800</u>   |
|   |                  | \$69,000        |                             |                 |

## 2 Retained earnings

|                                    | Hulk          | Molehill      | Pimple        |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                    | \$            | \$            | \$            |
| Per question                       | 45,000        | 32,000        | 25,000        |
| Pre-acquisition profits            |               | (8,000)       | (15,000)      |
| Post-acquisition retained earnings |               | <u>24,000</u> | <u>10,000</u> |
| Group share:                       |               |               |               |
| In Molehill (\$24,000 × 60%)       | 14,400        |               |               |
| In Pimple (\$10,000 × 56%)         | <u>5,600</u>  |               |               |
| Group retained earnings            | <u>65,000</u> |               |               |

## 3 Revaluation surplus

|  | \$            |
|--|---------------|
| Hulk Co  | 50,000        |
| Molehill Co: all post-acquisition (\$20,000 × 60%) | <u>12,000</u> |
|  | <u>62,000</u> |

## 4 Non-controlling interests

|   | Molehill        | Pimple        |
|---|-----------------|---------------|
|   | \$              | \$            |
| NCI at acquisition (W1)   | 23,200          | 28,600        |
| NCI in post acquisition retained earnings (\$24,000 (W2) × 40%)/(\$10,000 (W2) × 44%) | 9,600           | 4,400         |
| NCI in post-acquisition revaluation surplus (\$20,000 (W3) × 40%)                     | 8,000           | —             |
| Less NCI share of investment in Pimple (\$42,000 × 40%)                               | <u>(16,800)</u> | <u>—</u>      |
|   | <u>24,000</u>   | <u>33,000</u> |
|   | \$57,000        |               |

HULK CO  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MAY 20X8

|                                | \$             | \$             |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Assets</i>                  |                |                |
| Non-current assets             |                |                |
| Tangible assets                | 210,000        |                |
| Goodwill (W1)                  | <u>69,000</u>  |                |
|                                |                | 279,000        |
| Current assets                 |                | <u>130,000</u> |
|                                |                | <u>409,000</u> |
| <i>Equity and liabilities</i>  |                |                |
| Equity                         |                |                |
| Ordinary shares \$1            | 100,000        |                |
| Revaluation surplus (W3)       | 62,000         |                |
| Retained earnings (W2)         | <u>65,000</u>  |                |
| Shareholders' funds            | <u>227,000</u> |                |
| Non-controlling interests (W4) | <u>57,000</u>  |                |
|                                |                | 284,000        |
| Non-current liabilities        |                |                |
| 12% loan                       |                | <u>10,000</u>  |
|                                |                | 294,000        |
| Current liabilities            |                |                |
| Payables                       |                | <u>115,000</u> |
|                                |                | <u>409,000</u> |

## 4 IFRS 11 Joint arrangements

6/12

**FAST FORWARD**

IFRS 11 classes joint arrangements as either **joint operations** or **joint ventures**.

The classification of a joint arrangement as a joint operation or a joint venture depends upon the **rights and obligations** of the parties to the arrangement.

Joint arrangements are often found when each party can **contribute in different ways** to the activity. For example, one party may provide finance, another purchases or manufactures goods, while a third offers its marketing skills.

IFRS 11 *Joint arrangements* covers all types of joint arrangements. It is not concerned with the accounts of the joint arrangement itself (if separate accounts are maintained), but rather **how the interest in a joint arrangement is accounted for by each party**.

### 4.1 Definitions

The IFRS begins by listing some important definitions.

**Key terms**

**Joint arrangement.** An arrangement of which two or more parties have joint control.

**Joint control.** The contractually agreed sharing of control of an arrangement, which exists only when decisions about the relevant activities require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control.

**Joint operation.** A joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities relating to the arrangement.

**Joint venture.** A joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the net assets of the arrangement. (IFRS 11)



## 4.2 Forms of joint arrangement

IFRS 11 classes joint arrangements as either joint operations or joint ventures. The classification of a joint arrangement as a joint operation or a joint venture depends upon the rights and obligations of the parties to the arrangement.

A **joint operation** is a joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control (the joint operators) have rights to the assets, and obligations for the liabilities, of that joint arrangement. A joint arrangement that is **not structured through a separate entity** is always a joint operation.

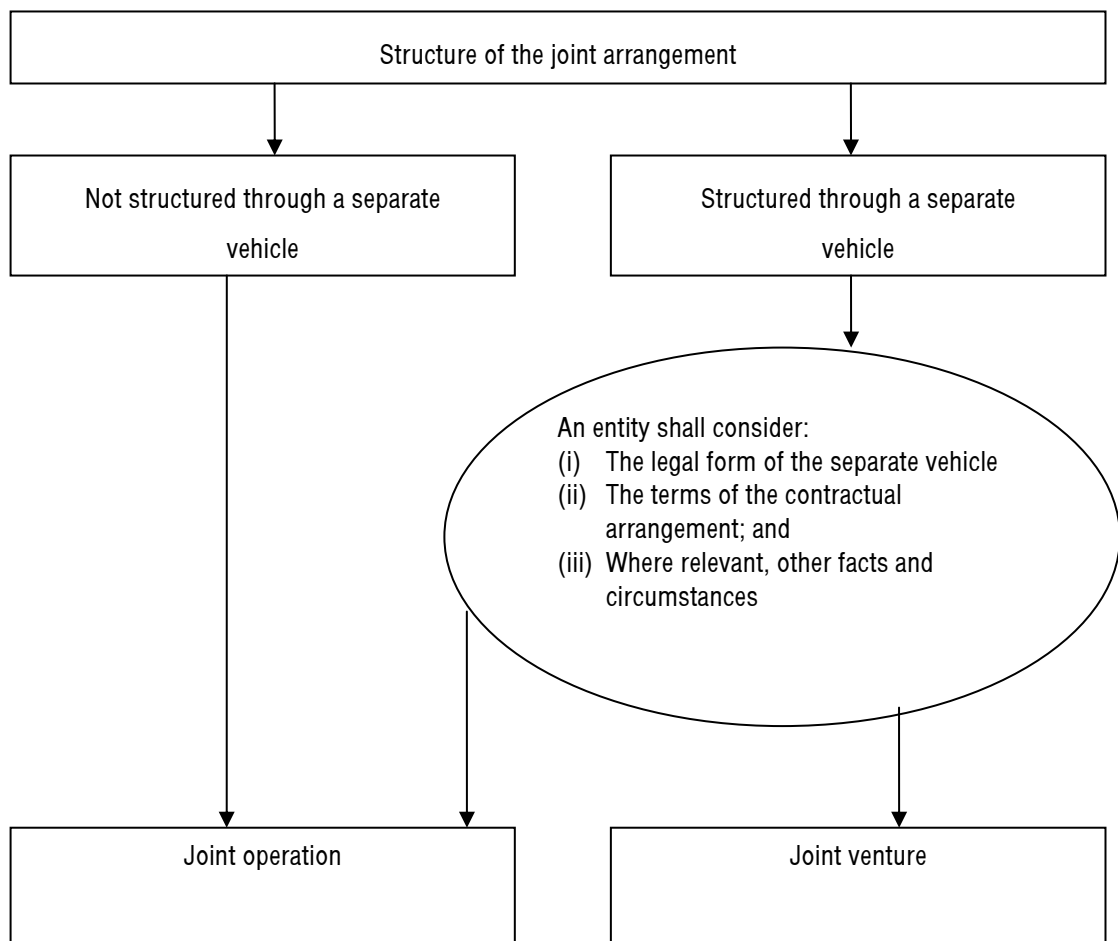
A **joint venture** is a joint arrangement whereby the parties that have **joint control** (the joint venturers) of the arrangement have **rights to the net assets** of the arrangement.

A **joint arrangement** that is structured through a **separate entity** may be either a joint operation or a joint venture. In order to ascertain the classification, the parties to the arrangement should assess the terms of the contractual arrangement together with any other facts or circumstances to assess whether they have:

- Rights to the assets, and obligations for the liabilities, in relation to the arrangement (indicating a joint operation)
- Rights to the net assets of the arrangement (indicating a joint venture)

Detailed guidance is provided in the appendices to IFRS 11 in order to help this assessment, giving consideration to, for example, the wording contained within contractual arrangements.

IFRS 11 summarises the basic issues that underlie the classifications in the following diagram.



### 4.2.1 Contractual arrangement

The existence of a contractual agreement distinguishes a joint arrangement from an investment in an associate. **If there is no contractual arrangement, then a joint arrangement does not exist.**

**Evidence** of a contractual arrangement could be in one of several forms.

- **Contract** between the parties
- **Minutes** of discussion between the parties
- Incorporation in the **articles or by-laws** of the joint venture

The contractual arrangement is usually **in writing**, whatever its form, and it will deal with the following issues surrounding the joint venture.

- **Its activity, duration and reporting obligations**
- The appointment of its **board of directors** (or equivalent) and the **voting rights** of the parties
- **Capital contributions** to it by the parties
- How its output, income, expenses or results are **shared** between the parties

It is the contractual arrangement which establishes **joint control** over the joint venture, so that no single party can control the activity of the joint venture on its own.

The terms of the contractual arrangement are key to deciding whether the arrangement is a joint venture or joint operation. IFRS 11 includes a table of issues to consider and explains the influence of a range of points that could be included in the contract. The table is summarised below.

|   | Joint operation   | Joint venture  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>The terms of the contractual arrangement</b> | The parties to the joint arrangement have rights to the assets, and obligations for the liabilities, relating to the arrangement.   | The parties to the joint arrangement have rights to the <b>net assets</b> of the arrangement (ie it is the separate vehicle, not the parties, that has rights to the assets, and obligations for the liabilities).         |
| <b>Rights to assets</b>                         | The parties to the joint arrangement share all interests (eg rights, title or ownership) in the assets relating to the arrangement in a specified proportion (eg in proportion to the parties' ownership interest in the arrangement or in proportion to the activity carried out through the arrangement that is directly attributed to them). | The assets brought into the arrangement or subsequently acquired by the joint arrangement are the arrangement's assets. The parties have no interests (ie no rights, title or ownership) in the assets of the arrangement. |

|                                    | Joint operation   | Joint venture  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Obligations for liabilities        | The parties share all liabilities, obligations, costs and expenses in a specified proportion (eg in proportion to their ownership interest in the arrangement or in proportion to the activity carried out through the arrangement that is directly attributed to them).  | The joint arrangement is liable for the debts and obligations of the arrangement.  |
|                                    |   | The parties are liable to the arrangement only to the extent of:<br>their respective:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investments in the arrangement, or</li> <li>• Obligations to contribute any unpaid or additional capital to the arrangement, or</li> <li>• Both</li> </ul> |
|                                    | The parties to the joint arrangement are liable for claims by third parties.  | Creditors of the joint arrangement do not have rights of recourse against any party.   |
| Revenues, expenses, profit or loss | The contractual arrangement establishes the allocation of revenues and expenses on the basis of the relative performance of each party to the joint arrangement. For example, the contractual arrangement might establish that revenues and expenses are allocated on the basis of the capacity that each party uses in a plant operated jointly. | The contractual arrangement establishes each party's share in the profit or loss relating to the activities of the arrangement.  |
| Guarantees                         | The provision of guarantees to third parties, or the commitment by the parties to provide them, does not, by itself, determine that the joint arrangement is a joint operation.   |  |

#### 4.2.2 Section summary

- There are two **types of joint arrangement**: joint ventures and jointly controlled operations
- A **contractual arrangement** must exist which establishes joint control
- **Joint control** is important: one **operator** must not be able to govern the financial and operating policies of the joint venture



This question is based on Illustrative example 2 from IFRS 11.

Two real estate companies (the parties) set up a separate vehicle (Supermall) for the purpose of acquiring and operating a shopping centre. The contractual arrangement between the parties establishes joint control of the activities that are conducted in Supermall. The main feature of Supermall's legal form is that the entity, not the parties, has rights to the assets, and obligations for the liabilities, relating to the arrangement. These activities include the rental of the retail units, managing the car park, maintaining the centre and its equipment, such as lifts, and building the reputation and customer base for the centre as a whole.

The terms of the contractual arrangement are such that:

- (a) Supermall owns the shopping centre. The contractual arrangement does not specify that the parties have rights to the shopping centre.
- (b) The parties are not liable in respect of the debts, liabilities or obligations of Supermall. If Supermall is unable to pay any of its debts or other liabilities or to discharge its obligations to third parties, the liability of each party to any third party will be limited to the unpaid amount of that party's capital contribution.
- (c) The parties have the right to sell or pledge their interests in Supermall.
- (d) Each party receives a share of the income from operating the shopping centre (which is the rental income net of the operating costs) in accordance with its interest in Supermall.

*Required*

Explain how Supermall should be classified in accordance with IFRS 11 *Joint arrangements*.

## Answer

Supermall has been set up as a **separate vehicle**. As such, it could be either a joint operation or joint venture, so other facts must be considered.

There are no facts that suggest that the two real estate companies have rights to substantially all the benefits of the assets of Supermall nor an obligation for its liabilities.

Each party's liability is limited to any unpaid capital contribution.

As a result, each party has an interest in the **net assets** of Supermall and should account for it as a **joint venture** using the **equity method**.

IFRS 11 contains many examples illustrating the principles of how to classify joint arrangements, you can find them at: [www.iasb.org](http://www.iasb.org)

## 4.3 Accounting treatment

### FAST FORWARD

The accounting treatment of joint arrangements depends on whether the arrangement is a joint venture or joint operation.

### 4.3.1 Accounting for joint operations

IFRS 11 requires that a joint operator recognises line-by-line the following in relation to its interest in a joint operation:

- (a) Its assets, including its share of any jointly held assets
- (b) Its liabilities, including its share of any jointly incurred liabilities
- (c) Its revenue from the sale of its share of the output arising from the joint operation

- (d) Its share of the revenue from the sale of the output by the joint operation, and
- (e) Its expenses, including its share of any expenses incurred jointly.

This treatment is applicable in both the separate and consolidated financial statements of the joint operator.



## Question

## Joint operations

Can you think of examples of situations where this type of joint venture might take place?

## Answer

IFRS 1 gives examples in the oil, gas and mineral extraction industries. In such industries companies may, say, jointly control and operate on oil or gas pipeline. Each company transports its own products down the pipeline and pays an agreed proportion of the expenses of operating the pipeline (perhaps based on volume). In this case the parties have rights to assets (such as exploration permits and the oil or gas produced by the activities).

A further example is a property which is jointly controlled, each venturer taking a share of the rental income and bearing a portion of the expense.

### Exam focus point

A joint operation was tested as part of the compulsory group case study question.

## 4.3.2 Joint ventures

### FAST FORWARD

IFRS 11 and IAS 28 require **joint ventures** to be accounted for using the **equity method**.

Prior to the new group accounting standards issued in 2011, the old standard on joint ventures (IAS 31) permitted either equity accounting or proportionate consolidation to be used for joint ventures. The choice has now been removed. (Proportionate consolidation meant including the investor's share of the assets, liabilities, income and expenses of the joint venture, line by line.)

The rules for equity accounting are included in IAS 28 *Associates and joint ventures*. These have been covered in detail in [Chapter 12](#).

## 4.3.3 Application of IAS 28 (2011) to joint ventures

The consolidated statement of financial position is prepared by:

- Including the interest in the joint venture at cost plus share of post-acquisition total comprehensive income
- Including the group share of the post-acquisition total comprehensive income in group reserves

The consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income will include:

- The group share of the joint venture's profit or loss
- The group share of the joint venture's other comprehensive income

The use of the equity method should be **discontinued** from the date on which the joint venturer ceases to have joint control over, or have significant influence on, a joint venture.

## 4.3.4 Transactions between a joint venturer and a joint venture

### Upstream transactions

A joint venturer may **sell or contribute assets** to a joint venture so making a profit or loss. Any such gain or loss should, however, only be recognised to the extent that it reflects the substance of the transaction.

Therefore:

- Only the **gain** attributable to the interest of the other joint venturers should be recognised in the financial statements.
- The full amount of any **loss** should be recognised when the transaction shows evidence that the net realisable value of current assets is less than cost, or that there is an impairment loss.

#### **Downstream transactions**

When a joint venturer purchases assets from a joint venture, the joint venturer should not recognise its share of the profit made by the joint venture on the transaction in question until it resells the assets to an independent third party, ie until the profit is realised.

Losses should be treated in the same way, *except* losses should be recognised immediately if they represent a reduction in the net realisable value of current assets, or a permanent decline in the carrying amount of non-current assets.

#### **4.3.5 Section summary**

- **Joint operations** are accounted for by including the investor's share of assets, liabilities, income and expenses as per the contractual arrangement
- **Joint ventures** are accounted for using the **equity method** as under IAS 28

## Chapter Roundup

- When a holding company has **several subsidiaries**, the consolidated statement of financial position shows a single figure for non-controlling interests and for goodwill arising on consolidation. In cases where there are several subsidiary companies the technique is to open up a single non-controlling interest working and a single goodwill working.
- When dealing with **sub-subsidiaries**, you will need to calculate effective interest owned by the group and by the non-controlling interest. The date of acquisition is important when dealing with sub-subsidiaries. Remember that it is the post-acquisition reserves from a group perspective which are important.
- **'D shaped' groups** are consolidated in the same way as a typical sub-subsidiary situation. It is the structure and non-controlling interest calculations that are important.
- **IFRS 11** classes joint arrangements as either **joint operations** or **joint ventures**.
- The accounting treatment of **joint arrangements** depends on whether the arrangement is a joint venture or joint operation.
- **IFRS 11** and **IAS 28** require **joint ventures** to be accounted for using **the equity method**.

## Quick Quiz

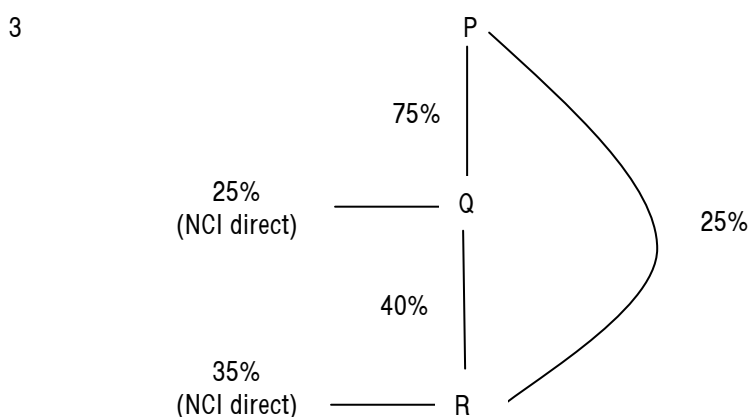
- 1 B Co owns 60% of the equity of C Co which owns 75% of the equity of D Co. What is the total non-controlling interest percentage ownership in D Co?
- 2 What is the basic consolidation method for sub-subsidiaries?
- 3 P Co owns 25% of R Co's equity and 75% of Q Co's equity. Q Co owns 40% of R Co's equity. What is the total non-controlling interest percentage ownership in R Co?
- 4 A joint venture is a joint arrangement whereby the parties that have \_\_\_\_\_ of the arrangement have rights to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the arrangement.  
which is subject to \_\_\_\_\_. *Complete the blanks.*
- 5 What forms of evidence of a contractual agreement might exist?
- 6 How should a venturer account for its share of a joint operation?
- 7 How should a venturer account for its share of a joint venture?
- 8 A joint arrangement that is structured through a separate vehicle will always be a joint venture.  
*True or false?*

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 B  
| 60%  
C  
| 75%  
D

Non-controlling interest = 25% + (40% of 75%) = 55%

- 2
- Net assets: show what the group controls
  - Equity (capital and reserves): show who owns the net assets



Total non-controlling interest in R is 35% + (25% × 40%) = 45%

- 4 A joint venture is a joint arrangement whereby the parties that have **joint control** of the arrangement have rights to the **net assets** of the arrangement.
- 5
- Contractual arrangement
  - Joint control
- 6
- The assets it controls and the liabilities it incurs
  - The expenses it incurs and the income it earns
- 7 A joint venture is accounted for using the equity method as required by IAS 28 *Associates and joint ventures*.
- 8 False. Joint arrangements that are structured through a separate vehicle may be either joint ventures or joint arrangements. The classification will depend on whether the venturer has rights to the **net assets** of the arrangement. This will depend on the terms of the contractual arrangements.

Now try the question below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level       | Marks | Time    |
|--------|-------------|-------|---------|
| Q17    | Examination | 10    | 18 mins |



# 14

## Changes in group structures

| Topic list   | Syllabus reference |
|--|--------------------|
| 1 Business combinations achieved in stages             | D3                 |
| 2 Acquisitions and disposals where control is retained | D3                 |
| 3 Disposals  | D3                 |
| 4 Changes in direct ownership                          | D3                 |

### Introduction

Complex consolidation issues are very likely to come up in this, the final stage of your studies on financial accounting. Your approach should be the same as for more simple consolidation questions: **methodical and logical**. If you understand the basic principles of consolidation, you should be able to tackle these complicated questions.

Purchase and sales within the group are dealt with in Section 4.

## Study guide

|           |  | Intellectual level |
|-----------|--|--------------------|
| <b>D1</b> | <b>Group accounting including statements of cash flows</b>   |                    |
| (c)       | Apply the recognition and measurement criteria for identifiable acquired assets and liabilities and goodwill including step acquisitions | 3                  |
| <b>D3</b> | <b>Changes in group structure</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Discuss the reasons behind a group reorganisation  | 3                  |
| (b)       | Evaluate and assess the principal terms of a proposed group reorganisation   | 3                  |

## Exam guide

The examiner likes to test business combinations achieved in stages, sometimes called step or piecemeal acquisitions.



One of the competences you need to fulfil Objective 10 of the Practical Experience Requirement (PER) is to prepare financial statements for single companies and combined entities. You can apply the knowledge you obtain from this Chapter, on combined entities, to demonstrate this competence.

## 1 Business combinations achieved in stages 12/07, 6/09, 12/09, 12/11, 6/12

### FAST FORWARD

Transactions of the type described in this chapter can be very complicated and certainly look rather daunting. Remember and apply the **basic techniques** and you should find such questions easier than you expected.

**Business combinations achieved in stages (piecemeal acquisitions)** can lead to a company becoming an investment in equity instruments, an associate and then a subsidiary over time. Make sure you can deal with each of these situations.

**Note.** The term 'investment in equity instruments' (IEI) is used to denote what, under IAS 39, was an available for sale financial asset. You may see the old term because IFRS 9 is not yet complete and is not yet in force. The main point to note is that the investment is what used to be called a 'trade investment', that is not an associate or a subsidiary.

A parent company may acquire a controlling interest in the shares of a subsidiary as a result of **several successive share purchases**, rather than by purchasing the shares all on the same day. Business combinations achieved in stages may also be known as 'piecemeal acquisitions'.

### 1.1 Types of business combination achieved in stages

There are three possible types of business combinations achieved in stages:

- (a) A previously held **interest**, say 10%, with **no significant influence** (accounted for under IAS 39) is **increased to a controlling interest** of 50% or more.
- (b) A **previously held equity interest**, say 35%, accounted for as an **associate** under IAS 28, is increased to a controlling interest of 50% or more.
- (c) A **controlling interest** in a subsidiary is **increased**, say from 60% to 80%.

The first two transactions are treated in the same way, but the third is not. There is a reason for this.

## 1.2 General principle: 'crossing an accounting boundary'

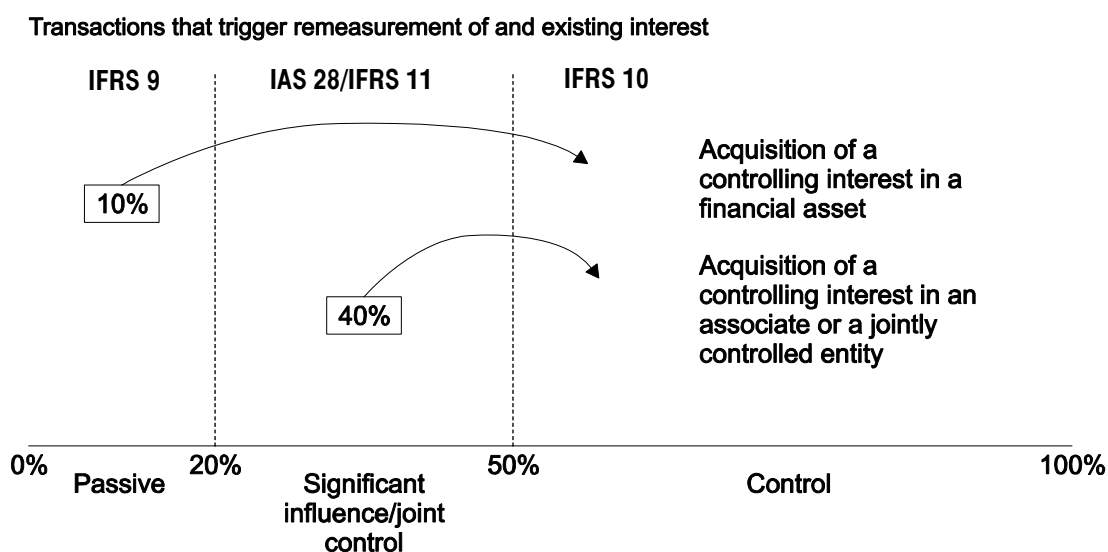
Under the revised IFRS 3 a business combination occurs only when one entity **obtains control over another**, which is generally when 50% or more has been acquired. The Deloitte guide: *Business Combinations and Changes in Ownership interests* calls this '**crossing an accounting boundary**'.

When this happens, the original investment – whether an investment in equity instruments with no significant influence, or an associate – is treated as if it were **disposed of at fair value and re-acquired at fair value**. This **previously held interest** at fair value, together with any consideration transferred, is the '**cost**' of the combination used in calculating the goodwill.

If the 50% **boundary is not crossed**, as when the interest in a subsidiary is increased, the event is treated as a **transaction between owners**.

**Whenever you cross the 50% boundary, you revalue, and a gain or loss is reported in profit or loss for the year. If you do not cross the 50% boundary, no gain or loss is reported; instead there is an adjustment to the parent's equity.**

The following diagram, from the *Deloitte* guide may help you visualise the boundary:



As you will see from the diagram, the third situation in Paragraph 1.1, where an interest in a subsidiary is increased from, say, 60% to 80%, does not involve crossing that all-important 50% threshold. Likewise, purchases of stakes of up to 50% do not involve crossing the boundary, and therefore do not trigger a calculation of goodwill.

### Exam focus point

In an exam, if you get a question with a business combination achieved in stages, ignore all purchases made before control is achieved, that is purchases bringing the total holding to less than 50%.

## 1.3 Investment or associate becomes a subsidiary: calculation of goodwill

The previously held investment is re-measured to fair value, with any gain being reported in profit or loss, and the goodwill calculated as follows.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Consideration transferred   | X        |
| Non-controlling interest (at %FV of new assets or 'full' FV)                | X        |
| Fair value of acquirer's previously held equity interest                    | X        |
| Less net fair value of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed | (X)      |
|   | <u>X</u> |

## Point to note

The gain or loss is recognised in **profit or loss** unless the equity interest previously held was an investment in equity instruments and an **irrevocable election** was made to hold the investment **at fair value through other comprehensive income**. In the latter case, in accordance with IFRS 9 (revised October 2010), the gain on derecognition of the investment is taken to other comprehensive income, or, in the SOFP, other components of equity.

### 1.3.1 Analogy: trading in a small car for a larger one

It may seem counter-intuitive that the previous investment is now part of the 'cost' for the purposes of calculating the goodwill. One way of looking at it is to imagine that you are part-exchanging a small car for a larger one. The value of the car you trade in is put towards the cost of the new vehicle, together with your cash (the 'consideration transferred'). Likewise, the company making the acquisition has part-exchanged its smaller investment – at fair value – for a larger one, and must naturally pay on top of that to obtain the larger investment.

This analogy is not exact, but may help.

Try the following question to get the hang of the calculation of goodwill and profit on de-recognition of the investment.



## Question

### Piecemeal acquisition 2

Good, whose year end is 30 June 20X9 has a subsidiary, Will, which it acquired in stages. The details of the acquisition are as follows.

| <i>Date of acquisition</i> | <i>Holding acquired</i> | <i>Retained earnings at acquisition</i> | <i>Purchase consideration</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|                            | %                       | \$m                                     | \$m                           |
| 1 July 20X7                | 20                      | 270                                     | 120                           |
| 1 July 20X8                | 60                      | 450                                     | 480                           |

The share capital of Will has remained unchanged since its incorporation at \$300m. The fair values of the net assets of Will were the same as their carrying amounts at the date of the acquisition. Good did not have significant influence over Will at any time before gaining control of Will. The group policy is to measure non-controlling interest at its proportionate share of the fair value of the subsidiary's identifiable net assets.

#### Required

- Calculate the goodwill on the acquisition of Will that will appear in the consolidated statement of financial position at 30 June 20X9.
- Calculate the profit on the derecognition of any previously held investment in Will to be reported in group profit or loss for the year ended 30 June 20X9.

## Answer

(a) *Goodwill (at date control obtained)*

|  | \$m        | \$m          |
|--|------------|--------------|
| Consideration transferred  |            | 480          |
| NCI (20% × 750)  |            | 150          |
| Fair value of previously held equity interest (\$480m × 20/60)     |            | 160          |
| Fair value of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed |            |              |
| Share capital  | 300        |              |
| Retained earnings  | <u>450</u> |              |
|  |            | <u>(750)</u> |
|  |            | <u>40</u>    |

(b) *Profit on derecognition of investment*

|  | \$m          |
|--|--------------|
| Fair value at date control obtained (see part (a)) | 160          |
| Cost   | <u>(120)</u> |
|  | <u>40</u>    |

In this short example, the figures for goodwill and profit on derecognition are the same. In the more complicated examples, such as the one in Paragraph 1.4 below, they may differ because the investment (an investment in equity instruments) may be revalued before or after control was obtained.

### 1.4 Comprehensive example: Acquisition of a subsidiary in stages

#### Exam focus point

The examiner has strongly indicated that he is more likely to test non-controlling interest at fair value in the group question in the exam. Accordingly, this example has fair value NCI. Additionally, the questions in the question bank at the end of this Study Text have fair value NCI.

Oscar acquired 25% of Tigger on 1 January 20X1 for \$2,020,000 when Tigger's reserves were standing at \$5,800,000. The fair value of Tigger's identifiable assets and liabilities at that date was \$7,200,000. Both Oscar and Tigger are stock market listed entities.

At 31 December 20X1, the fair value of Oscar's 25% stake in Tigger was \$2,440,000.

A further 35% stake in Tigger was acquired on 30 September 20X2 for \$4,025,000 (equivalent to the fair value of \$14.375 per share acquired on that date) giving Oscar control over Tigger. The fair value of Tigger's identifiable assets and liabilities at that date was \$9,400,000, and Tigger's reserves stood at \$7,800,000.

For consistency with the measurement of other shares, Oscar holds all investments in subsidiaries and associates at fair value through other comprehensive income in its separate financial statements as permitted by IFRS 10 *Consolidated financial statements*.

At 31 December 20X2, the fair value of Oscar's 60% holding in Tigger was \$7,020,000 (and total cumulative gains recognised in other comprehensive income in Oscar's separate financial statements amounted to \$975,000).

Summarised statements of financial position of the two companies at 31 December 20X2 show:

|  | <i>Oscar</i><br>\$'000 | <i>Tigger</i><br>\$'000 |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Non-current assets</i>                |                        |                         |
| Property, plant and equipment            | 38,650                 | 7,600                   |
| Investment in equity instrument (Tigger) | <u>7,020</u>           | <u>–</u>                |
|  | <u>45,670</u>          | <u>7,600</u>            |
| <i>Current assets</i>                    | <u>12,700</u>          | <u>2,200</u>            |
|  | <u>58,370</u>          | <u>9,800</u>            |
| <i>Equity</i>                            |                        |                         |
| Share capital (\$1 shares)               | 10,200                 | 800                     |
| Reserves                                 | <u>40,720</u>          | <u>7,900</u>            |
|  | <u>50,920</u>          | <u>8,700</u>            |
| <i>Liabilities</i>                       | <u>7,450</u>           | <u>1,100</u>            |
|  | <u>58,370</u>          | <u>9,800</u>            |

**SUMMARISED STATEMENTS OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 20X2:**

|  | <i>Oscar</i><br>\$'000 | <i>Tigger</i><br>\$'000 |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Profit before interest and tax</i>  | 1,280                  | 420                     |
| Finance costs  | <u>(80)</u>            | <u>(20)</u>             |
| <i>Profit before tax</i>   | 1,200                  | 400                     |
| Income tax expense   | <u>(360)</u>           | <u>(80)</u>             |
| <b>PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>   | <u>840</u>             | <u>320</u>              |
| <i>Other comprehensive income (items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss):</i> |                        |                         |
| Gain on property valuation, net of tax   | 240                    | 80                      |
| Investment in equity instrument (Tigger)   | <u>555</u>             | <u>–</u>                |
| <i>Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax</i>                                 | <u>795</u>             | <u>80</u>               |
| <b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>   | <u>1,635</u>           | <u>400</u>              |

The difference between the fair value of the identifiable assets and liabilities of Tigger and their book value relates to the value of a plot of land. The land had not been sold by 31 December 20X2.

Income and expenses are assumed to accrue evenly over the year. Neither company paid dividends during the year.

Oscar elected to measure non-controlling interests at the date of acquisition at fair value. No impairment losses on recognised goodwill have been necessary to date.

**Required**

Prepare the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and statement of financial position of the Oscar Group as at 31 December 20X2 in the following circumstances:

- The 25% interest in Tigger allowed Oscar significant influence over the financial and operating policy decisions of Tigger.
- The other 75% of shares were held by a single shareholder and Oscar was allowed no influence in the running of Tigger until acquiring control.

**Solution**

|     |  |               |
|-----|--|---------------|
| (a) | <b>OSCAR GROUP</b>   |               |
|     | <b>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 20X2</b> | <b>\$'000</b> |
|     | <i>Non-current assets</i>  |               |
|     | Property, plant and equipment (38,650 + 7,600 + (W5) 800)                  | 47,050        |
|     | Goodwill (W2)  | <u>2,100</u>  |
|     |  | <u>49,150</u> |
|     | <i>Current assets</i> (12,700 + 2,200)                                     | <u>14,900</u> |
|     |  | <u>64,050</u> |

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
|  | \$'000        |
| <i>Equity attributable to owners of the parent</i> |               |
| Share capital                                      | 10,200        |
| Reserves (W3)                                      | 40,660        |
|  | <u>50,860</u> |
| <i>Non-controlling interests (W4)</i>              | 4,640         |
|  | <u>55,500</u> |
| <i>Liabilities (7,450 + 1,100)</i>                 | 8,550         |
|  | <u>64,050</u> |

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X2

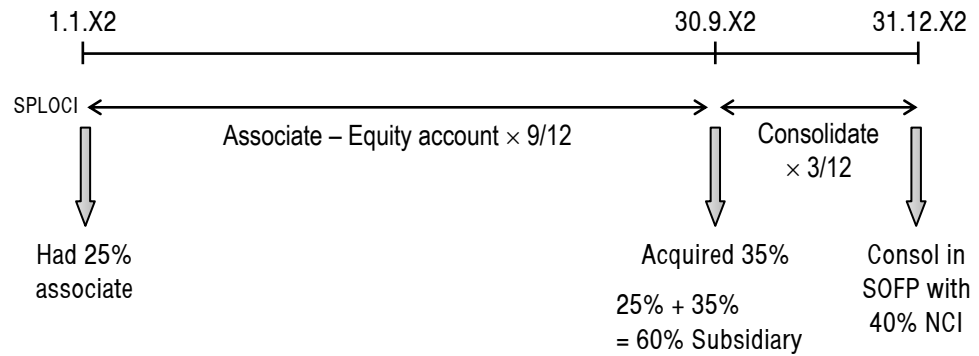
|  |              |
|--|--------------|
|  | \$'000       |
| Profit before interest and tax ( $1,280 + (420 \times 3/12)$ )                             | 1,385        |
| Finance costs ( $80 + (20 \times 3/12)$ )  | (85)         |
| Profit on derecognition of associate (W3)  | 355          |
| Share of profit of associate ( $320 \times 9/12 \times 25\%$ )                             | 60           |
| <i>Profit before tax</i>   | <u>1,715</u> |
| Income tax expense ( $360 + (80 \times 3/12)$ )  | (380)        |
| PROFIT FOR THE YEAR  | <u>1,335</u> |
| <i>Other comprehensive income (items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss):</i> |              |
| Gains on property revaluation, net of tax ( $240 + (80 \times 3/12)$ )                     | 260          |
| Share of other comprehensive income of associate ( $80 \times 9/12 \times 25\%$ )          | 15           |
| <i>Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax</i>                                 | <u>275</u>   |
| TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR  | <u>1,610</u> |
| Profit attributable to:  |              |
| Owners of parent   | 1,303        |
| Non-controlling interests ( $320 \times 3/12 \times 40\%$ )                                | 32           |
|  | <u>1,335</u> |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to:  |              |
| Owners of parent   | 1,570        |
| Non-controlling interests ( $400 \times 3/12 \times 40\%$ )                                | 40           |
|  | <u>1,610</u> |

## Workings

### 1 Group structure

|                    |          |             |
|--------------------|----------|-------------|
|                    | Oscar    |             |
|                    | 1.1.20X1 | 30.9.20X2   |
|                    | 25%      | + 35% = 60% |
| Cost               | \$2.02m  | \$4.025m    |
| Pre-acq'n reserves | \$5.8m   | \$7.8m      |
|                    | ↓        |             |
|                    | Tigger   |             |

#### Timeline



### 2 Goodwill

|   |        |              |
|---|--------|--------------|
|   | \$'000 | \$'000       |
| Consideration transferred   |        | 4,025        |
| Non-controlling interests (at 'full' FV: 800,000 × 40% × \$14.375)      |        | 4,600        |
| FV of P's previously held equity interest (800,000 × 25% × \$14.375)    |        | 2,875        |
| Fair value of identifiable assets acq'd & liabilities assumed at acq'n: |        |              |
| Share capital   | 800    |              |
| Reserves  | 7,800  |              |
| Fair value adjustments (W5)   | 800    |              |
|   |        | (9,400)      |
|   |        | <u>2,100</u> |



3 *Consolidated reserves (if previously held as an associate)*

|  | <i>Oscar</i>  | <i>Tigger</i><br><i>25%</i> | <i>Tigger</i><br><i>60%</i> |
|--|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | \$'000        | \$'000                      | \$'000                      |
| Per question/at date control obtained                  | 40,720        | 7,800                       | 7,900                       |
| Profit on derecognition of investment *                | 355           |                             |                             |
| Fair value movement (W5)                               |               | (0)                         | (0)                         |
| Reserves at acquisition                                |               | <u>(5,800)</u>              | <u>(7,800)</u>              |
|  |               | 2,000                       | 100                         |
| Group share of post-acquisition reserves:              |               |                             |                             |
| Tigger – 25% (2,000 × 25%)                             | 500           |                             |                             |
| Tigger – 60% (100 × 60%)                               | 60            |                             |                             |
| Less fair value gain recognised in Oscar's separate FS |               | <u>(975)</u>                |                             |
|  | <u>40,660</u> |                             |                             |

\* *Profit on derecognition of 25% associate*

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
|   | \$'000         |
| Fair value at date control obtained (200,000 shares × \$14.375) | 2,875          |
| P's share of carrying value [2,020 + ((7,800 – 5,800) × 25%)]   | <u>(2,520)</u> |
|   | <u>355</u>     |

4 *Non-controlling interests*

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
|   | \$'000       |
| NCI at acquisition (W2)                     | 4,600        |
| NCI share of reserves post <i>control</i> : |              |
| Tigger – 40% ((W3) 100 × 40%)               | <u>40</u>    |
|   | <u>4,640</u> |

5 *Fair value adjustments*

Measured at date control achieved (only)

|                              | <i>At acquisition</i><br><i>30.9.X2</i> | <i>Movement</i> | <i>At year end</i><br><i>31.12.X2</i> |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
|                              | \$'000                                  | \$'000          | \$'000                                |
| Land (9,400 – (800 + 7,800)) | 800                                     | –               | 800                                   |

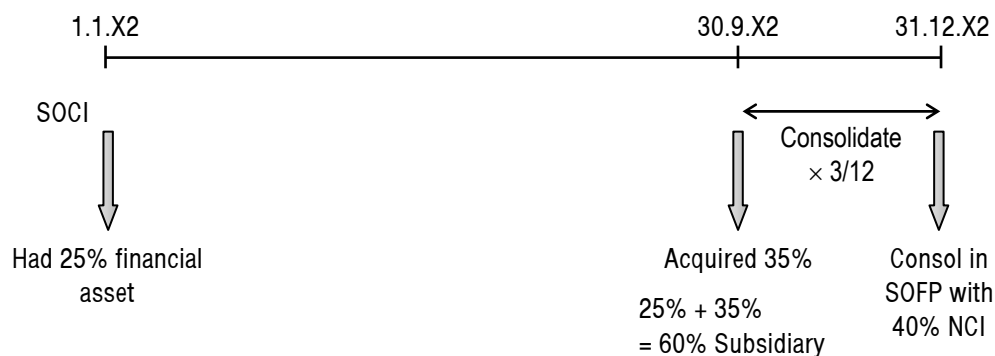
- (b) Part (b) would generate the same overall answer for the statement of financial position as part (a) (see W7 for proof of reserves). The statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income however will report different figures:

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X2

|  | \$'000       |
|--|--------------|
| Profit before interest and tax ( $1,280 + (420 \times 3/12)$ )                             | 1,385        |
| Finance costs ( $80 + (20 \times 3/12)$ )  | (85)         |
| Profit on derecognition of investment in equity instrument (W7)                            | 435          |
| <i>Profit before tax</i>   | <u>1,735</u> |
| Income tax expense ( $360 + (80 \times 3/12)$ )  | (380)        |
| PROFIT FOR THE YEAR  | <u>1,355</u> |
| <i>Other comprehensive income (items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss):</i> |              |
| Gains on property revaluation, net of tax ( $240 + (80 \times 3/12)$ )                     | 260          |
| <i>Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax</i>                                 | <u>260</u>   |
| TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR  | <u>1,615</u> |
| Profit attributable to:  |              |
| Owners of parent ( $\beta$ )   | 1,323        |
| Non-controlling interests ( $320 \times 3/12 \times 40\%$ )                                | 32           |
|  | <u>1,355</u> |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to:  |              |
| Owners of parent ( $\beta$ )   | 1,575        |
| Non-controlling interests ( $400 \times 3/12 \times 40\%$ )                                | 40           |
|  | <u>1,615</u> |

Workings (cont'd)

6 Timeline



7 Consolidated reserves (if previously held as an IEI) – proof

|  | \$'000<br><i>Oscar</i> | \$'000<br><i>Tigger</i> |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Per question   | 40,720                 | 7,900                   |
| Cumulative profit on 25% investment*                   | 855                    |                         |
| Fair value movement (part (a) (W5))                    | (0)                    | (0)                     |
| Reserves at acquisition                                |                        | <u>(7,800)</u>          |
|  |                        | 100                     |
| Group share of post acquisition reserves:              |                        |                         |
| Tigger ( $100 \times 60\%$ )                           | 60                     |                         |
| Less Fair value gain recognised in Oscar's separate FS | (975)                  |                         |
|  | <u>40,660</u>          |                         |

|  |  |         |
|--|--|---------|
| * Cumulative profit on 25% investment                                |  | \$'000  |
| 20X2: FV at date control obtained 30/9/20X1 (200k shares × \$14.375) |  | 2,875   |
| FV at 31/12/20X1   |  | (2,440) |
|  |  | 435     |
| 20X1: (FV at 31/12/20X1 2,440 – original cost 2,020)                 |  | 420     |
|  |  | 855     |

**Note.** For simplicity we have put all reserves together, but strictly speaking, the profit on the derecognition of the 25% investment would be shown as 'other comprehensive income: \$855,000' and 'other components of equity \$855,000', leaving retained earnings of \$39,805,000.

## 1.5 Section summary

Where control is **achieved in stages**:

- **Remeasure** any previously held equity interest to **fair value at the date control is achieved**
- Report any **gain in profit or loss** (unless an irrevocable election had been made to record gains in OCI)
- Where a **controlling interest is increased** treat as a transaction between owners and **adjust parent's equity**

## 2 Acquisitions and disposals where control is retained

### FAST FORWARD

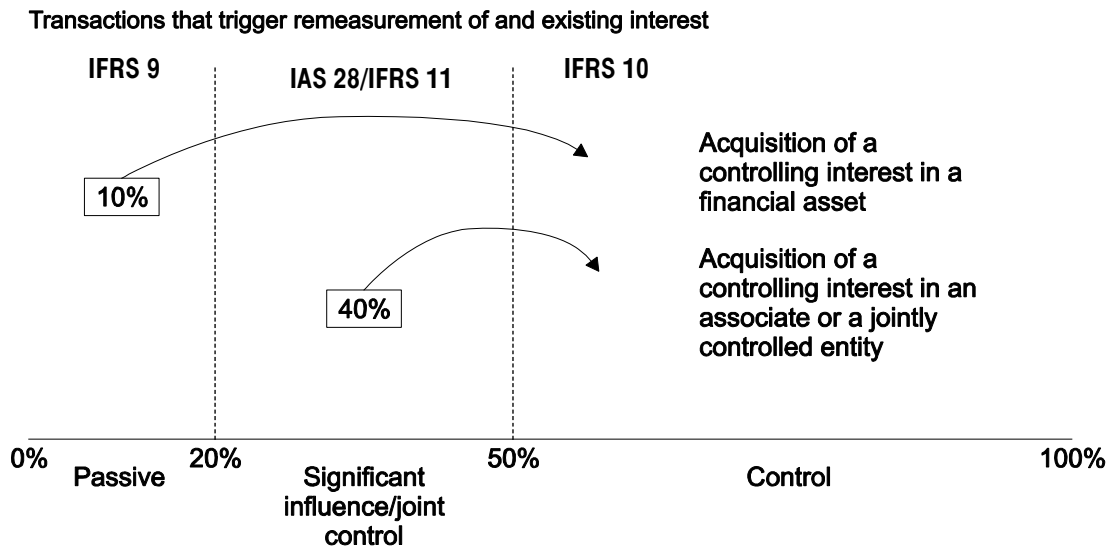
An **increase or decrease in controlling interest** where **control is retained** is accounted for under the revised IFRS 3 as a **transaction between owners**. The **difference between the consideration and the change in non-controlling interests** is shown as an **adjustment to parent's equity**.

### Point to note

The non-controlling interest decreases with an acquisition where control is retained and increases with a disposal where control is retained.

### 2.1 Increase in previously held controlling interest: adjustment to parent's equity

An example of this would be where an investment goes from a 60% subsidiary to an 80% subsidiary. This is in the right-hand third of the diagram in Section 1, repeated for your convenience here.



Where the controlling interest increases from 60% to 80%, the 50% threshold has not been crossed, so there is no re-measurement to fair value and no gain or loss to profit or loss for the year. The increase is treated as a **transaction between owners**. As with disposals, ownership has been **reallocated** between parent and non-controlling shareholders.

Accordingly the parent's equity is adjusted. The required adjustment is calculated by comparing the consideration paid with the decrease in non-controlling interest. (As the parent's share has increased, the NCI share has decreased.) The **calculation is as follows**.

|  |            |
|--|------------|
|  | \$         |
| Fair value of consideration paid                     | (X)        |
| Decrease in NCI in net assets at date of transaction | X          |
| Decrease in NCI in goodwill at date of transaction * | X          |
| Adjustment to parent's equity                        | <u>(X)</u> |

**\*Note.** This line is only required where non-controlling interests are measured at fair value at the date of acquisition (ie where there is an decrease in the non-controlling interest share of goodwill already recognised).

If you are wondering why the increase in shareholding is treated as a transaction between owners, look back to [Chapter 12](#), where we explained that the revised IFRS 3 views **the group as an economic entity**, and **views all providers of equity**, including non-controlling interests, as **owners of the group**.

You can practise this adjustment in the example below.

## 2.2 Example: Increase in previously held controlling interest: adjustment to parent's equity

The facts are the same as in Example 1.4 above. Show the consolidated current assets, non-controlling interests and reserves figures if Oscar acquired an *additional* 10% interest in Tigger on 31 December 20X2 for \$1,200,000.

## Solution

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
|   | \$'000         |
| <i>Current assets</i> (14,900 – 1,200)            | 13,700         |
| <i>Non-controlling interests</i>                  |                |
|   | \$'000         |
| NCI at acquisition: Para 1.4 (W4)                 | 4,640          |
| NCI share of reserves post <i>control</i> :       |                |
| Tigger – 40% (Para 1.4 (W3) $100 \times 40\%$ )   | 40             |
|   | <u>4,680</u>   |
| Decrease in NCI (W)                               | <u>(1,170)</u> |
|   | <u>3,510</u>   |
| <i>Consolidated reserves</i>                      |                |
|   | \$'000         |
| Per Paragraph 1.4 (W3)                            | 40,660         |
| Adjustment to parent's equity on acq'n of 10% (W) | <u>(30)</u>    |
|   | <u>40,630</u>  |

*Note:* no other figures in the statement of financial position are affected.

*Working:* adjustment to parent's equity on acquisition of additional 10% of Tigger

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
|  | \$'000       |
| Fair value of consideration paid   | (1,200)      |
| Decrease in NCI in net assets and goodwill* ( $4,680 \text{ above} \times 10\%/40\%$ ) | <u>1,170</u> |
|  | <u>(30)</u>  |

|                                    |        |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|
|                                    | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| DEBIT Non-controlling interests    | 1,170  |        |
| DEBIT Parent's equity (difference) | 30     |        |
| CREDIT Cash                        |        | 1,200  |

**\*Note.** An adjustment to the non-controlling interests in goodwill (ie a reallocation between the group and non-controlling interests) only occurs when it is group policy to measure NCI at fair value at the date of acquisition, which is the case here. In such cases, the NCI share of the goodwill is automatically included in the NCI figure used for the adjustment.

## 2.3 Disposals where control is retained

Control is retained where the disposal is from **subsidiary to subsidiary**, eg going from 80% to 60%. Again, the difference between the consideration and the change in non-controlling interests is shown as an adjustment to parent's equity. This is covered in Section 3 below.

## 2.4 Section summary

- Where a **controlling interest is increased or decreased** treat as a transaction between owners and **adjust parent's equity**

## FAST FORWARD

**Disposals** can drop a subsidiary holding to associate status, long-term investment status and to zero, or a the parent might still retain a subsidiary with a reduced holding. Once again, you should be able to deal with all these situations. Remember particularly how to deal with **goodwill**.

**Disposals of shares** in a subsidiary may or may not result in a loss of control. If control is lost, then any remaining investment will need to be recategorised as an associate or an investment in equity instruments.

## Point to note

Disposals are in many ways a mirror image of business combinations achieved in stages. The same principles underly both.

## 3.1 Types of disposal

### 3.1.1 Disposals where control is lost

There are three main kinds of disposals in which control is lost:

- (a) Full disposal: all the holding is sold (say, 80% to nil)
- (b) Subsidiary to associate (say, 80% to 30%)
- (c) Subsidiary to trade investment (say, 80% to 10%)

In your exam, you are most likely to meet a partial disposal, either subsidiary to associate or subsidiary to trade investment.

### 3.1.2 Disposals where control is retained

There is only one kind of disposal where control is retained: **subsidiary to subsidiary**, for example an 80% holding to a 60% holding.

Disposals where control is lost are treated differently from disposals where control is retained. There is a reason for this.

## 3.2 General principle: 'crossing an accounting boundary'

Under IFRS 3 (revised) a gain on disposal occurs only when one entity loses control over another, which is generally when its holding is decreased to less than 50%. The Deloitte guide: *Business Combinations and Changes in Ownership Interests* calls this 'crossing an accounting boundary'.

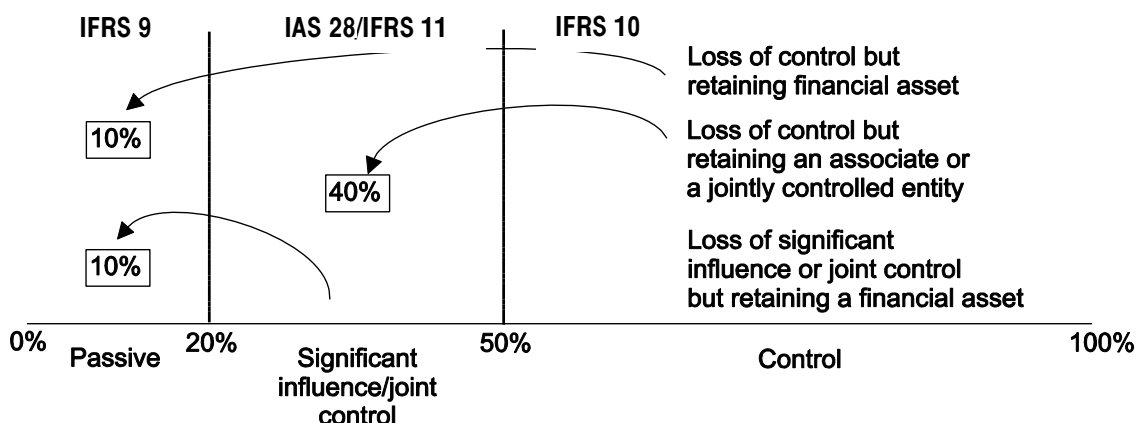
**On disposal of a controlling interest, any retained interest (an associate or trade investment) is measured at fair value on the date that control is lost.** This fair value is used in the calculation of the gain or loss on disposal, and also becomes the carrying amount for subsequent accounting for the retained interest.

If the **50% boundary is not crossed**, as when the interest in a subsidiary is reduced, the event is treated as a **transaction between owners**.

**Whenever you cross the 50% boundary, you revalue, and a gain or loss is reported in profit or loss for the year. If you do not cross the 50% boundary, no gain or loss is reported; instead there is an adjustment to the parent's equity.**

The following diagram, from the *Deloitte*s guide, may help you visualise the boundary:

#### Transactions that require remeasurement of a retained interest



As you will see from the diagram, the situation in Paragraph 3.1.2, where an interest in a subsidiary is reduced from say 80% to 60%, does not involve crossing that all-important 50% threshold.

### 3.3 Effective date of disposal

The effective date of disposal is **when control passes**: the date for accounting for an undertaking ceasing to be a subsidiary undertaking is the date on which its former parent undertaking relinquishes its control over that undertaking. The consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should include the results of a subsidiary undertaking up to the date of its disposal. IAS 37 on provisions ([Chapter 9](#)) and IFRS 5 on disclosure of discontinued operations will have an impact here (see [Chapter 15](#)).

### 3.4 Control lost: calculation of group gain on disposal

A proforma calculation is shown below. This needs to be adapted for the circumstances in the question, in particular whether it is a full or partial disposal:

|  |     |       |
|--|-----|-------|
|  | \$  | \$    |
| Fair value of consideration received                             |     | X     |
| Fair value of any investment retained                            |     | X     |
| Less: share of consolidated carrying value at date control lost: |     |       |
| net assets   | X   |       |
| goodwill   | X   |       |
| less non-controlling interests                                   | (X) |       |
|  |     | (X)   |
| Group profit/(loss)  |     | X/(X) |

Following IAS 1, this gain may need to be disclosed separately if it is material.

#### 3.4.1 Analogy: trading in a large car for a smaller one

It may seem counter-intuitive that the investment retained is now part of the 'proceeds' for the purposes of calculating the gain. One way of looking at it is to imagine that you are selling a larger car and putting part of the proceeds towards a smaller one. If the larger car you are selling cost you less than the smaller car and cash combined, you have made a profit. Likewise, the company making the disposal sold a larger stake to gain, at fair value, a smaller stake and some cash on top, which is the 'consideration received'.

This analogy is not exact, but may help.

### 3.5 Calculation of gain in parent's separate financial statements

This calculation is more straightforward: the proceeds are compared with the carrying value of the investment sold. The investment will be held at cost or at fair value if held as an investment in equity instruments:

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
|   | \$           |
| Fair value of consideration received          | X            |
| Less carrying value of investment disposed of | <u>(X)</u>   |
| Profit/(loss) on disposal                     | <u>X/(X)</u> |

The profit on disposal is generally taxable, and the **tax based on the parent's gain** rather than the group's will also need to be recognised in the consolidated financial statements.

### 3.6 Disposals where control is lost: accounting treatment

For a **full disposal**, apply the following treatment.

(a) **Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income**

- (i) Consolidate results and non-controlling interest to the date of disposal.
- (ii) Show the group profit or loss on disposal.

(b) **Statement of financial position**

There will be no non-controlling interest and no consolidation as there is no subsidiary at the date the statement of financial position is being prepared.

A full disposal is illustrated in requirement (a) of the Question Disposal later in this chapter.

For **partial disposals**, use the following treatments.

(a) **Subsidiary to associate**

(i) **Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income**

- (1) Treat the undertaking as a subsidiary up to the date of disposal, ie consolidate for the correct number of months and show the non-controlling interest in that amount.
- (2) Show the profit or loss on disposal.
- (3) Treat as an associate thereafter.

(ii) **Statement of financial position**

- (1) The investment remaining is at its fair value at the date of disposal (to calculate the gain)
- (2) Equity account (as an associate) thereafter, using the fair value as the new 'cost'. (Post-'acquisition' retained earnings are added to this cost in future years to arrive at the carrying value of the investment in the associate in the statement of financial position.)

A part disposal where a subsidiary becomes an associate is illustrated in requirement (c) of the Question 'Disposal', later in this chapter.

(b) **Subsidiary to trade investment/IEI**

(i) **Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income**

- (1) Treat the undertaking as a subsidiary up to the date of disposal, ie consolidate.
- (2) Show profit or loss on disposal.
- (3) Show dividend income only thereafter.

(ii) **Statement of financial position**

- (i) The investment remaining is at its fair value at the date of disposal (to calculate the gain).
- (2) Thereafter, treat as an investment in equity instruments under IFRS 9.

A part disposal where a subsidiary becomes an investment in equity instruments is illustrated in requirement (d) of the Question 'Disposal', later in this chapter.



### 3.7 Disposals where control is retained

Control is retained where the disposal is from **subsidiary to subsidiary**. The accounting treatment is as follows.

#### 3.7.1 Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

- (a) The subsidiary is **consolidated in full** for the whole period.
- (b) The **non-controlling interest in the statement of profit or loss** will be based on percentage before and after disposal, ie time apportion.
- (c) There is no profit or loss on disposal.

#### 3.7.2 Statement of financial position

- (a) The non-controlling interest in the statement of financial position is based on the year end percentage.
- (b) The change (increase) in non-controlling interests is shown as an adjustment to the parent's equity.
- (c) Goodwill on acquisition is unchanged in the consolidated statement of financial position.

#### 3.7.3 Adjustment to the parent's equity

This reflects the fact that the non-controlling share has increased (as the parent's share has reduced). A subsidiary to subsidiary disposal is, in effect, **a transaction between owners**. Specifically, it is a reallocation of ownership between parent and non-controlling equity holders. **The goodwill is unchanged**, because it is a historical figure, unaffected by the reallocation. The adjustment to the parent's equity is calculated as follows.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
|   | \$       |
| Fair value of consideration received      | X        |
| Increase in NCI in net assets at disposal | (X)      |
| Increase in NCI in goodwill at disposal * | (X)      |
| Adjustment to parent's equity             | <u>X</u> |

\* **Note.** This line is only required where non-controlling interests are measured at fair value at the date of acquisition (ie where there is an increase in the non-controlling interest share of goodwill already recognised).

If you are wondering why the decrease in shareholding is treated as a transaction between owners, look back to [Chapter 12](#), where we explained that the revised IFRS 3 views **the group as an economic entity**, and views **all providers of equity**, including non-controlling interests, as **owners of the group**. Non-controlling shareholders are not outsiders, they are owners of the group just like the parent.

You can practise the adjustment to parent's equity in the example and in requirement (b) of the Question 'Disposal' below.

#### 3.7.4 Gain in the parent's separate financial statements

This is calculated as for disposals where control is lost: see Paragraph 3.5 above.

### 3.8 Example: Partial disposals

Chalk Co bought 100% of the voting share capital of Cheese Co on its incorporation on 1 January 20X2 for \$160,000. Cheese Co earned and retained \$240,000 from that date until 31 December 20X7. At that date the statements of financial position of the company and the group were as follows.

|                      | <i>Chalk Co</i> | <i>Cheese Co</i> | <i>Consolidated</i> |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
|                      | \$'000          | \$'000           | \$'000              |
| Investment in Cheese | 160             | —                | —                   |
| Other assets         | 1,000           | 500              | 1,500               |
|                      | <u>1,160</u>    | <u>500</u>       | <u>1,500</u>        |
| Share capital        | 400             | 160              | 400                 |
| Retained earnings    | 560             | 240              | 800                 |
| Current liabilities  | 200             | 100              | 300                 |
|                      | <u>1,160</u>    | <u>500</u>       | <u>1,500</u>        |

It is the group's policy to value the non-controlling interest at its proportionate share of the fair value of the subsidiary's identifiable net assets.

On 1 January 20X8 Chalk Co sold 40% of its shareholding in Cheese Co for \$280,000. The profit on disposal (ignoring tax) in the financial statements of the parent company is calculated as follows.

|  | <i>Chalk</i> |
|--|--------------|
|  | \$'000       |
| Fair value of consideration received     | 280          |
| Carrying value of investment (40% × 160) | 64           |
| Profit on sale                           | <u>216</u>   |

We now move on to calculate the adjustment to equity for the group financial statements.

Because only 40% of the 100% subsidiary has been sold, leaving a 60% subsidiary, **control is retained**. This means that there is **no group profit on disposal in profit or loss for the year**. Instead, there is an **adjustment to the parent's equity**, which affects group retained earnings.

#### Point to note

Remember that, when control is retained, the disposal is just a transaction between owners. The non-controlling shareholders are owners of the group, just like the parent.

The adjustment to parent's equity is calculated as follows.

|  | \$'000     |
|--|------------|
| Fair value of consideration received   | 280        |
| Increase in non-controlling interest in net assets at the date of disposal (40% × 400) | 160        |
| Adjustment to parent's equity  | <u>120</u> |

This increases group retained earnings and does not go through group profit or loss for the year. (Note that there is no goodwill in this example, or non-controlling interest in goodwill, as the subsidiary was acquired on incorporation.)

## Solution: Subsidiary status

The statements of financial position immediately after the sale will appear as follows.

|                               | <i>Chalk Co</i><br>\$'000 | <i>Cheese Co</i><br>\$'000 | <i>Consolidated</i><br>\$'000 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Investment in Cheese (160-64) | 96                        |                            |                               |
| Other assets                  | 1,280                     | 500                        | 1,780                         |
|                               | <u>1,376</u>              | <u>500</u>                 | <u>1,780</u>                  |
| Share capital                 | 400                       | 160                        | 400                           |
| Retained earnings*            | 776                       | 240                        | 920                           |
| Current liabilities           | 200                       | 100                        | 300                           |
|                               | <u>1,376</u>              | <u>500</u>                 | <u>1,620</u>                  |
| Non-controlling interest      |                           |                            | 160                           |
|                               |                           |                            | <u>1,780</u>                  |

\*Chalk's retained earnings are \$560,000 + \$216,000 profit on disposal. Group retained earnings are increased by the adjustment above: \$800,000 + \$120,000 = \$920,000.

## Solution: Associate status

Using the above example, assume that Chalk Co sold 60% of its holding in Cheese Co for \$440,000. The fair value of the 40% holding retained was \$200,000. The gain or loss on disposal in the books of the parent company would be calculated as follows.

|  | <i>Parent company</i><br>\$'000 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Fair value of consideration received     | 440                             |
| Carrying value of investment (60% × 160) | (96)                            |
| Profit on sale                           | <u>344</u>                      |

This time control is lost, so there will be a gain in group profit or loss, calculated as follows.

|   | \$'000     |
|---|------------|
| Fair value of consideration received  | 440        |
| Fair value of investment retained   | 200        |
| Less Chalk's share of consolidated carrying value at date control lost 100% × 400 | (400)      |
| Group profit on sale  | <u>240</u> |

Note that there was no goodwill arising on the acquisition of Cheese, otherwise this too would be deducted in the calculation.

The statements of financial position would now appear as follows.

|                               | <i>Chalk Co</i><br>\$'000 | <i>Cheese Co</i><br>\$'000 | <i>Consolidated</i><br>\$'000 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Investment in Cheese (Note 1) | 64                        |                            | 200                           |
| Other assets                  | 1,440                     | 500                        | 1,440                         |
|                               | <u>1,504</u>              | <u>500</u>                 | <u>1,640</u>                  |
| Share capital                 | 400                       | 160                        | 400                           |
| Retained earnings (Note 2)    | 904                       | 240                        | 1,040                         |
| Current liabilities           | 200                       | 100                        | 200                           |
|                               | <u>1,504</u>              | <u>500</u>                 | <u>1,640</u>                  |

### Notes

- The investment in Cheese is at fair value in the group SOFP. In fact it is equity accounted at fair value at date control lost plus share of post-'acquisition' retained earnings. But there are no retained earnings yet because control has only just been lost.
- Group retained earnings are \$800,000 (per question) plus group profit on the sale of \$240,000, ie \$1,040,000.

The following comprehensive question should help you get to grips with disposal problems. Try to complete the whole question without looking at the solution, and then check your answer very carefully. **Give yourself at least two hours.** This is a very difficult question.

**Exam focus point**

Questions may involve part-disposals leaving investments with both subsidiary and associate status. Disposals could well come up at P2, since you have not covered them before.



**Question**

**Disposal**

Smith Co bought 80% of the share capital of Jones Co for \$324,000 on 1 October 20X5. At that date Jones Co's retained earnings balance stood at \$180,000. The statements of financial position at 30 September 20X8 and the summarised statements of profit or loss to that date are given below. (There is no other comprehensive income.)

|                        | Smith Co<br>\$'000 | Jones Co<br>\$'000 |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Non-current assets     | 360                | 270                |
| Investment in Jones Co | 324                | –                  |
| Current assets         | 370                | 370                |
|                        | <u>1,054</u>       | <u>640</u>         |
| Equity                 |                    |                    |
| \$1 ordinary shares    | 540                | 180                |
| Retained earnings      | 414                | 360                |
| Current liabilities    | 100                | 100                |
|                        | <u>1,054</u>       | <u>640</u>         |
| Profit before tax      | 153                | 126                |
| Tax                    | (45)               | (36)               |
| Profit for the year    | <u>108</u>         | <u>90</u>          |

No entries have been made in the accounts for any of the following transactions.

Assume that profits accrue evenly throughout the year.

It is the group's policy to value the non-controlling interest at its proportionate share of the fair value of the subsidiary's identifiable net assets.

Ignore taxation.

*Required*

Prepare the consolidated statement of financial position and statement of profit or loss at 30 September 20X8 in each of the following circumstances. (Assume no impairment of goodwill.)

- Smith Co sells its entire holding in Jones Co for \$650,000 on 30 September 20X8.
- Smith Co sells one quarter of its holding in Jones Co for \$160,000 on 30 June 20X8.
- Smith Co sells one half of its holding in Jones Co for \$340,000 on 30 June 20X8, and the remaining holding (fair value \$250,000) is to be dealt with as an associate.
- Smith Co sells one half of its holding in Jones Co for \$340,000 on 30 June 20X8, and the remaining holding (fair value \$250,000) is to be dealt with as an investment in equity instruments.

**Answer**

- Complete disposal at year end (80% to 0%)*

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 20X8

|                            | \$'000       |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Non-current assets         | 360          |
| Current assets (370 + 650) | 1,020        |
|                            | <u>1,380</u> |

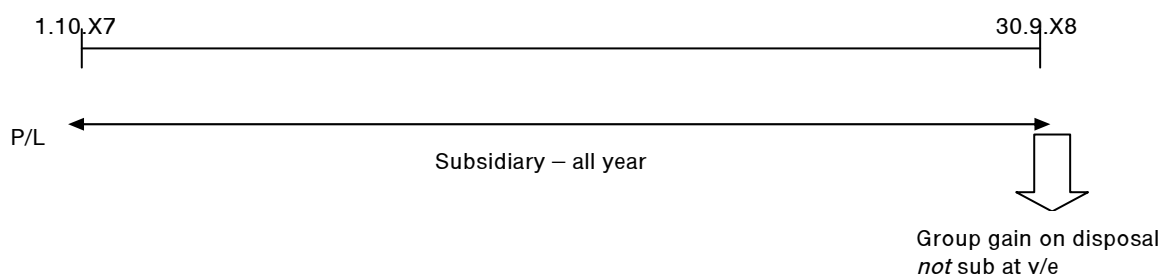
|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
|                        | \$'000       |
| <i>Equity</i>          |              |
| \$1 ordinary shares    | 540          |
| Retained earnings (W3) | 740          |
| Current liabilities    | 100          |
|                        | <u>1,380</u> |

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 20X8

|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
|                                     | \$'000     |
| Profit before tax (153 + 126)       | 279        |
| Profit on disposal (W2)             | 182        |
| Tax (45 + 36)                       | (81)       |
|                                     | <u>380</u> |
| Profit attributable to:             |            |
| Owners of the parent                | 362        |
| Non-controlling interest (20% × 90) | 18         |
|                                     | <u>380</u> |

#### Workings

##### 1 Timeline



##### 2 Profit on disposal of Jones Co

|  |            |              |
|--|------------|--------------|
|  | \$'000     | \$'000       |
| Fair value of consideration received                         |            | 650          |
| Less share of consolidated carrying value when control lost: |            |              |
| net assets   | 540        |              |
| goodwill   | 36         |              |
| non-controlling interest: 20% × 540                          | (108)      |              |
|  | <u>576</u> |              |
|  |            | <u>(468)</u> |
|  |            | <u>182</u>   |

*Note: goodwill*

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
|                           | \$'000    |
| Consideration transferred | 324       |
| NCI (20% × 360)           | 72        |
| Acquired: (180 + 180)     | (360)     |
|                           | <u>36</u> |

##### 3 Retained earnings carried forward

|   | Smith      | Jones      |
|---|------------|------------|
|   | \$'000     | \$'000     |
| Per question/date of disposal                               | 414        | 360        |
| Add group gain on disposal (W2)                             | 182        | –          |
| Reserves at acquisition                                     | –          | (180)      |
|   |            | <u>180</u> |
| Share of post-acq'n reserves up to the disposal (80% × 180) | 144        |            |
|   | <u>740</u> |            |

(b) *Partial disposal: subsidiary to subsidiary (80% to 60%)*

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 20X8

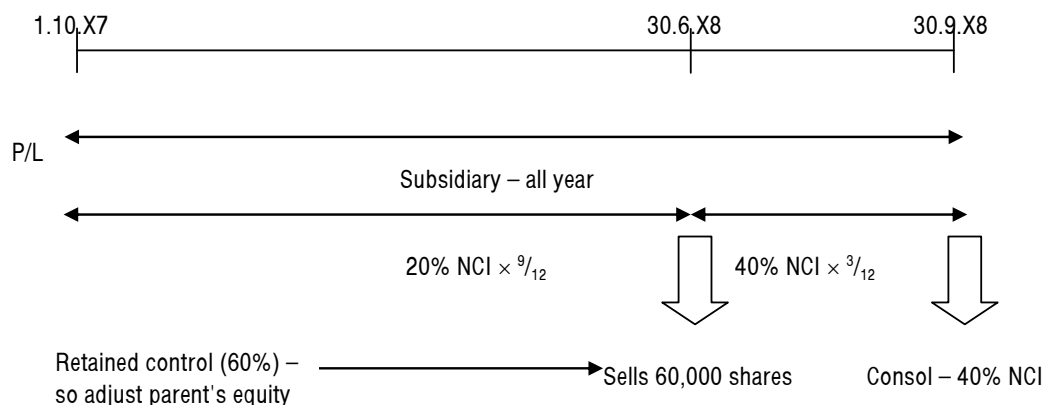
|                                  | \$'000       |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Non-current assets (360 + 270)   | 630          |
| Goodwill (part (a))              | 36           |
| Current assets (370 + 160 + 370) | 900          |
|                                  | <u>1,566</u> |
| <i>Equity</i>                    |              |
| \$1 ordinary shares              | 540          |
| Retained earnings (W2)           | 610          |
|                                  | <u>1,150</u> |
| Non-controlling interest (W4)    | 216          |
| Current liabilities (100 + 100)  | 200          |
|                                  | <u>1,566</u> |

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 20X8

|                               | \$'000     | \$'000       |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Profit before tax (153 + 126) |            | 279          |
| Tax (45 + 36)                 |            | <u>(81)</u>  |
| Profit for the period         |            | <u>198</u>   |
| Profit attributable to:       |            |              |
| Owners of the parent          |            | 175.5        |
| Non-controlling interest      |            |              |
| 20% × 90 × 9/12               | 13.5       |              |
| 40% × 90 × 3/12               | <u>9.0</u> |              |
|                               |            | <u>22.5</u>  |
|                               |            | <u>198.0</u> |

*Workings*

1 *Timeline*



2 *Adjustment to parent's equity on disposal of 20% of Jones*

|  | \$'000 | \$'000         |
|--|--------|----------------|
| Fair value of consideration received           |        | 160.0          |
| Less increase in NCI in net assets at disposal |        | <u>(103.5)</u> |
| 20% × (540 – (3/12 × 90))                      |        | <u>56.5</u>    |

|   |   |              |              |                     |
|---|---|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 3 | <i>Group retained earnings</i>                          | <i>Smith</i> | <i>Jones</i> | <i>Jones</i>        |
|   |   |              | <i>80%</i>   | <i>60% retained</i> |
|   |   | \$'000       | \$'000       | \$'000              |
|   | Per question/at date of disposal<br>(360 – (90 × 3/12)) | 414.0        | 337.5        | 360.0               |
|   | Adjustment to parent's equity on disposal (W2)          | 56.5         |              |                     |
|   | Retained earnings at acquisition                        |              | (180.0)      | (337.5)             |
|   |   |              | <u>157.5</u> | <u>22.5</u>         |
|   | Jones: share of post acq'n. earnings<br>(157.5 × 80%)   | 126.0        |              |                     |
|   | Jones: share of post acq'n. earnings<br>(22.5 × 60%)    | <u>13.5</u>  |              |                     |
|   |   | <u>610.0</u> |              |                     |
| 4 | <i>Non-controlling interests (SOPF)</i>                 |              | \$'000       | \$'000              |
|   | NCI at acquisition (part (a) – goodwill)                |              | 72.0         |                     |
|   | NCI share of post acq'n reserves (W3) (157.5 × 20%)     |              | <u>31.5</u>  |                     |
|   |   |              | 103.5        |                     |
|   |   |              | <u>9.0</u>   |                     |
|   |   |              |              | 112.5               |
|   | Increase in NCI (W3)                                    |              |              | <u>103.5</u>        |
|   |   |              |              | <u>216.0</u>        |

(c) *Partial disposal: subsidiary to associate (80% to 40%)*

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 20X8

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
|                              | \$'000       |
| Non-current assets           | 360          |
| Investment in associate (W4) | 259          |
| Current assets (370 + 340)   | <u>710</u>   |
|                              | <u>1,329</u> |
| <i>Equity</i>                |              |
| \$1 ordinary shares          | 540          |
| Retained earnings (W3)       | 689          |
| Current liabilities          | <u>100</u>   |
|                              | <u>1,329</u> |

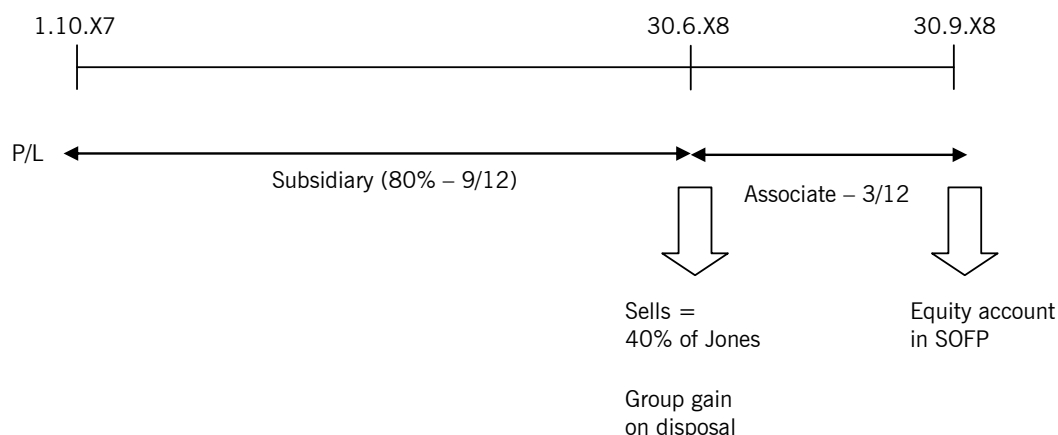
#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 20X8

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
|  | \$'000        |
| Profit before tax (153 + 9/12 × 126)           | 247.5         |
| Profit on disposal (W2)                        | 140.0         |
| Share of profit of associate (90 × 3/12 × 40%) | 9.0           |
| Tax 45 + (9/12 × 36)                           | <u>(72.0)</u> |
| Profit for the period                          | <u>324.5</u>  |
| Profit attributable to:                        |               |
| Owners of the parent                           | 311.0         |
| Non-controlling interest (20% × 90 × 9/12)     | <u>13.5</u>   |
|  | <u>324.5</u>  |

## 1 Timeline

1

### Timeline



|   |                |              |
|---|----------------|--------------|
|   | \$'000         | \$'000       |
| Fair value of consideration received                        |                | 340          |
| Fair value of 40% investment retained                       |                | 250          |
| Less share of consolidated carrying value when control lost |                |              |
| 540 – (90 × 3/12)   | 517.5          |              |
| Goodwill (part (a))   | 36.0           |              |
| Less NCI 20% × ((540 – (90 × 3/12))                         | <u>(103.5)</u> |              |
|   |                | <u>(450)</u> |
|   |                | 140          |

| Group retained earnings                                 | Smith      | Jones<br>80%(sub) | Jones<br>40% retained<br>(assoc.) |
|---|------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
|   | \$'000     | \$'000            | \$'000                            |
| Per question/at date of disposal<br>(360 – (90 × 3/12)) | 414        | 337.5             | 360                               |
| Group profit on disposal (W2)                           | 140        |                   |                                   |
| Retained earnings at acquisition/date control lost      |            | <u>(180)</u>      | <u>(337.5)</u>                    |
|   |            | <u>157.5</u>      | <u>22.5</u>                       |
| Jones: share of post acqn. earnings<br>(157.5 × 80%)    | 126        |                   |                                   |
| Jones: share of post acqn. earnings<br>(22.5 × 40%)     |            | <u>9</u>          |                                   |
|   | <u>689</u> |                   |                                   |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
|   | \$'000     |
| Fair value at date control lost (new 'cost')  | 250        |
| Share of post 'acq'n' retained reserves ( $90 \times 3/12 \times 40\%$ ) (or from W3) | 9          |
|   | <u>259</u> |



(d) *Partial disposal: subsidiary to investment in equity instruments (80% to 40%)*

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 20X8

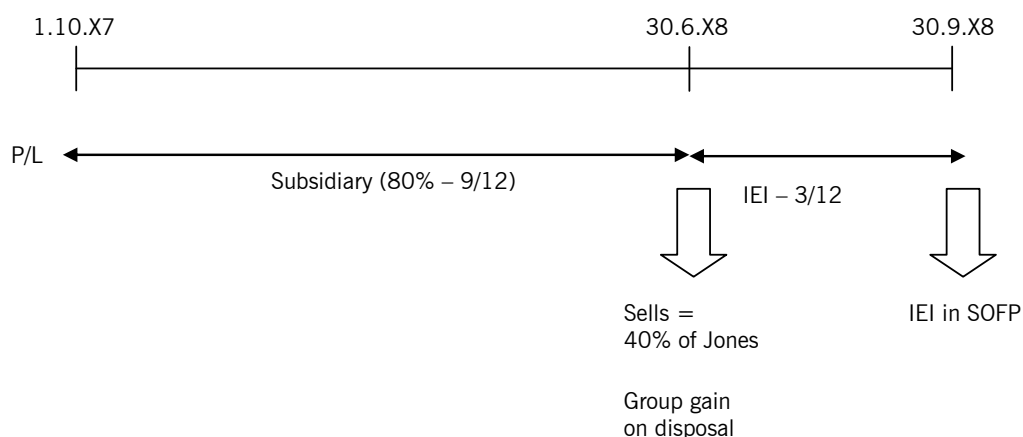
|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
|                            | \$'000       |
| Non-current assets         | 360          |
| Investment                 | 250          |
| Current assets (370 + 340) | 710          |
|                            | <u>1,320</u> |
| <i>Equity</i>              |              |
| \$1 ordinary shares        | 540          |
| Retained earnings (W2)     | 680          |
| Current liabilities        | 100          |
|                            | <u>1,320</u> |

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 20X8

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
|   | \$'000       |
| Profit before tax ( $153 + (9/12 \times 126)$ ) | 247.5        |
| Profit on disposal (See (c) above)              | 140.0        |
| Tax ( $45 + (9/12 \times 36)$ )                 | (72.0)       |
| Profit for the period                           | <u>315.5</u> |
| Profit attributable to:                         |              |
| Owners of the parent                            | 302.0        |
| Non-controlling interest                        | 13.5         |
|   | <u>315.5</u> |

*Workings*

1 *Timeline*



2 *Retained earnings*

|   | Smith<br>\$'000 | Jones<br>\$'000 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Per question/at date of disposal ( $360 - (90 \times 3/12)$ ) | 414             | 337.5           |
| Group profit on disposal (see (c) above)                      | 140             |                 |
| Retained earnings at acquisition                              |                 | (180.0)         |
|   |                 | <u>157.5</u>    |
| Jones: share of post acq'n. earnings ( $157.5 \times 80\%$ )  | 126             |                 |
|   | <u>680</u>      |                 |

### 3.9 Section summary

Disposals occur frequently in Paper P2 consolidation questions.

- The effective date of disposal is when **control passes**
- Treatment of **goodwill** is according to IFRS 3
- Disposals may be **full** or **partial**, to subsidiary, associate or investment status
  - **if control is lost**, the interest retained is **fair valued** and becomes part of the calculation of the gain on disposal
  - **if control is retained**, the change in non-controlling interests is shown as **an adjustment to parent's equity**
- **Gain or loss** on disposal is calculated for the parent company and the group

## 4 Changes in direct ownership

12/11

### FAST FORWARD

**Changes in direct ownership** (ie internal group reorganisations) can take many forms. Apart from divisionalisation, all other internal reorganisations will not affect the consolidated financial statements, but they will affect the accounts of individual companies within the group.

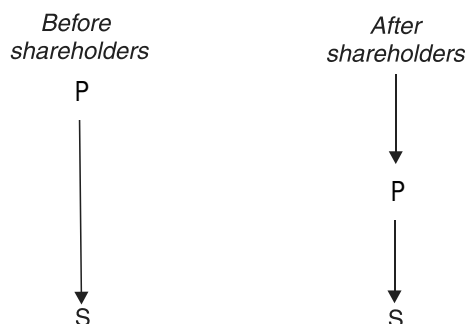
Groups will reorganise on occasions for a variety of reasons.

- (a) A group may want to float a business to **reduce the gearing** of the group. The holding company will initially transfer the business into a separate company.
- (b) Companies may be transferred to another business during a **divisionalisation** process.
- (c) The group may 'reverse' into another company to obtain a **stock exchange quotation**.
- (d) Internal reorganisations may create efficiencies of group structure for **tax purposes**.

Such reorganisations involve a restructuring of the relationships within a group. Companies may be transferred to another business during a divisionalisation process. There is generally no effect on the consolidated financial statements, *provided that* no non-controlling interests are affected, because such reorganisations are only internal. The impact on the individual companies within the group, however, can be substantial. A variety of different transactions are described here, **only involving 100% subsidiaries**.

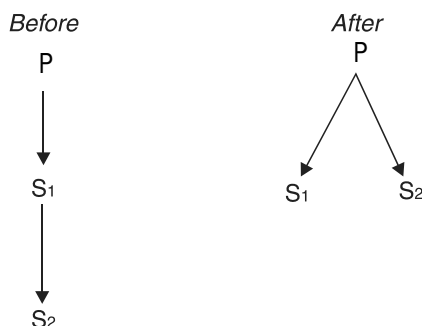
### 4.1 New top parent company

A new top holding company might be needed as a vehicle for flotation or to improve the co-ordination of a diverse business. The new company, P, will issue its own shares to the holders of the shares in S.



## 4.2 Subsidiary moved up

This transaction is shown in the diagram below. It might be carried out to allow  $S_1$  to be **sold** while  $S_2$  is retained, or to **split diverse businesses**.



$S_1$  could transfer its investment in  $S_2$  to P as a dividend *in specie* or by P paying cash. A share for share exchange is not possible because an allotment by P to  $S_1$  is void. A **dividend in specie** is simply a dividend paid other than in cash.

$S_1$  must have sufficient **distributable profits** for a dividend *in specie*. If the investment in  $S_2$  has been revalued then that can be treated as a realised profit for the purposes of determining the legality of the distribution. For example, suppose the statement of financial position of  $S_1$  is as follows.

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
|                                   | \$m          |
| Investment in $S_2$ (cost \$100m) | 900          |
| Other net assets                  | 100          |
|                                   | <u>1,000</u> |
| Share capital                     | 100          |
| Revaluation surplus               | 800          |
| Retained earnings                 | 100          |
|                                   | <u>1,000</u> |

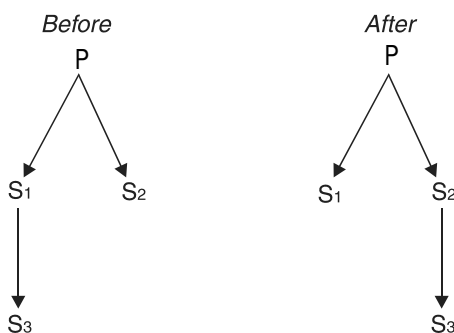
It appears that  $S_1$  cannot make a distribution of more than \$100m. If, however,  $S_1$  makes a distribution in kind of its investment in  $S_2$ , then the **revaluation surplus** can be treated as realised.

It is not clear how P should account for the transaction. The carrying value to  $S_2$  might be used, but there may be **no legal rule**. P will need to write down its investment in  $S_1$  at the same time. A transfer for cash is probably easiest, but there are still legal pitfalls as to what is distributable, depending on how the transfer is recorded.

There will be **no effect** on the group financial statements as the group has stayed the same: it has made no acquisitions or disposals.

## 4.3 Subsidiary moved along

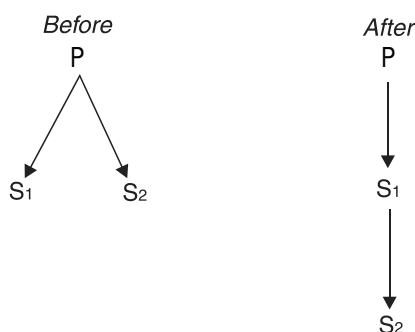
This is a transaction which is treated in a very similar manner to that described above.



The problem of an effective distribution does not arise here because the holding company did not buy the subsidiary. There may be problems with **financial assistance** if  $S_2$  pays less than the fair value to purchase  $S_3$  as a prelude to  $S_1$  leaving the group.

## 4.4 Subsidiary moved down

This situation could arise if H is in one country and S<sub>1</sub> and S<sub>2</sub> are in another. A **tax group** can be formed out of such a restructuring.



If S<sub>1</sub> paid cash for S<sub>2</sub>, the transaction would be straightforward (as described above). It is unclear whether H should recognise a gain or loss on the sale if S<sub>2</sub> is sold for more or less than carrying value. S<sub>1</sub> would only be deemed to have made a distribution (avoiding any advance tax payable) only if the **price was excessive**.

A share for share exchange accounted for as a uniting of interests may obtain partial relief against the need to create a **share premium account**. A share premium account must be set up with a 'minimum premium value'. This is the amount by which the book value of the shares (or lower cost) exceeds the nominal value of the shares issued. This preserves the book value of the investment.

## 4.5 Example: Minimum premium value

Hop Co has two 100% subsidiaries, Skip and Jump. The statements of financial position at 31 December 20X5 are as follows.

|                       | <i>Hop Co</i><br>\$'000 | <i>Skip Co</i><br>\$'000 | <i>Jump Co</i><br>\$'000 | <i>Group</i><br>\$'000 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Investment in Skip Co | 1,000                   |                          |                          |                        |
| Investment in Jump Co | 500                     |                          |                          |                        |
| Net assets            | 1,500                   | 1,375                    | 1,500                    | 4,375                  |
|                       | <u>3,000</u>            | <u>1,375</u>             | <u>1,500</u>             | <u>4,375</u>           |
| Share capital         | 2,500                   | 1,000                    | 500                      | 2,500                  |
| Retained earnings     | 500                     | 375                      | 1,000                    | 1,875                  |
|                       | <u>3,000</u>            | <u>1,375</u>             | <u>1,500</u>             | <u>4,375</u>           |

Hop Co wants to transfer Jump Co to Skip Co.

### Solution

Skip Co issues 250,000 \$1 shares in exchange for Hop Co's investment in Jump Co. The minimum premium value is \$500,000 (carrying value) – \$250,000 = \$250,000. The statements of financial position are now as follows.

|                    | <i>Hop Co</i><br>\$'000 | <i>Skip Co</i><br>\$'000 | <i>Jump Co</i><br>\$'000 | <i>Group</i><br>\$'000 |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Investment in Skip | 1,500                   |                          |                          |                        |
| Investment in Jump |                         | 500                      |                          |                        |
| Net assets         | 1,500                   | 1,375                    | 1,500                    | 4,375                  |
|                    | <u>3,000</u>            | <u>1,875</u>             | <u>1,500</u>             | <u>4,375</u>           |
| Share capital      | 2,500                   | 1,250                    | 500                      | 2,500                  |
| Share premium      |                         | 250                      |                          |                        |
| Retained earnings  | 500                     | 375                      | 1,000                    | 1,875                  |
|                    | <u>3,000</u>            | <u>1,875</u>             | <u>1,500</u>             | <u>4,375</u>           |

## 4.6 Divisionalisation

This type of transaction involves the **transfer of businesses** from subsidiaries into just one company. The businesses will all be similar and this is a means of rationalising and streamlining. The savings in administration costs can be quite substantial. The remaining shell company will leave the cash it was paid on an intragroup balance as it is no longer trading. The accounting treatment is generally straightforward.

## Chapter Roundup

- Transactions of the type described in this chapter can be very **complicated** and certainly look rather daunting. Remember and apply the basic techniques and you should find such questions easier than you expected.
- **Business combinations achieved in stages** (piecemeal acquisitions) can lead to a company becoming an investment in equity instrument, an associate and then a subsidiary over time. Make sure you can deal with each of these situations.
- An **increase or decrease in controlling interest** where **control is retained** is accounted for under the revised IFRS 3 as a **transaction between owners**. The **difference between the consideration and the change in non-controlling interests** is shown as an **adjustment to parent's equity**.
- **Disposals** can drop a subsidiary holding to associate status, long-term investment status and to zero, or a the parent might still retain a subsidiary with a reduced holding. Once again, you should be able to deal with all these situations. Remember particularly how to deal with **goodwill**.
- **Disposals of shares** in a subsidiary may or may not result in a loss of control. If control is lost, then any remaining investment will need to be recategorised as an associate or an investment in equity instruments.
- **Changes in direct ownership** (ie internal group reorganisations) can take many forms. Apart from divisionalisation, all other internal reorganisations will not affect the consolidated financial statements, but they will affect the accounts of individual companies within the group.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 Control is always lost when there is a disposal. *True or false?*
- 2 Why is the fair value of the interest retained used in the calculation of a gain on disposal where control is lost?
- 3 When is the effective date of disposal of shares in an investment?
- 4 Subside owns 60% of Diary at 31 December 20X8. On 1 July 20X9, it buys a further 20% of Diary. How should this transaction be treated in the group financial statements at 31 December 20X9.
- 5 Ditch had a 75% subsidiary, Dodge, at 30 June 20X8. On 1 January 20X9, it sold two-thirds of this investment, leaving it with a 25% holding, over which it retained significant influence. How will the remaining investment in Dodge appear in the group financial statements for the year ended 30 June 20X9?

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 False. Control may be retained if the disposal is from subsidiary to subsidiary, even though the parent owns less and the non-controlling interest owns more.
- 2 It may be viewed as part of the consideration received.
- 3 When control passes
- 4 As a transaction between owners, with an adjustment to the parent's equity to reflect the difference between the consideration paid and the decrease in non-controlling interest.
- 5 At its fair value at the date of disposal plus a 25% share of the profits accrued between the date of disposal and the year end, less any impairment at the year end.

Now try the questions below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level       | Marks | Time    |
|--------|-------------|-------|---------|
| Q18    | Examination | 18    | 32 mins |
| Q19    | Examination | 22    | 40 mins |





# 15

## Continuing and discontinued interests

| Topic list  | Syllabus reference |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 IFRS 5 Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations | C2, D2             |
| 2 Classification of assets held for sale                              | C2, D2             |
| 3 Measurement of assets held for sale                                 | C2, D2             |
| 4 Presenting discontinued operations                                  | C2, D2             |

### Introduction

Separate analysis of discontinued operations and of non-current assets held for sale allows the user of the accounts to make more accurate assessments of a company's prospects in the future, because it excludes these items.

## Study guide

|           |  | Intellectual level |
|-----------|--|--------------------|
| <b>C2</b> | <b>Non-current assets</b>  |                    |
| (b)       | Apply and discuss the treatment of non-current assets held for sale  | 3                  |
| <b>D2</b> | <b>Continuing and discontinued interests</b>   |                    |
| (a)       | Prepare group financial statements where activities have been classified as discontinued or have been acquired or disposed in the period | 3                  |
| (b)       | Apply and discuss the treatment of a subsidiary which has been acquired exclusively with a view to subsequent disposal                   | 3                  |

## Exam guide

IFRS 5 was tested in December 2007.

# 1 IFRS 5 Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations

12/07, 6/10

### Background

#### FAST FORWARD

**IFRS 5** requires assets 'held for sale' to be presented separately in the statement of financial position.

The results of discontinued operations should be presented separately in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

IFRS 5 was the result of a short-term convergence project with the US Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). It replaced IAS 35 *Discontinuing operations*.

IFRS 5 requires assets and groups of assets that are 'held for sale' to be presented separately in the statement of financial position and the results of discontinued operations to be presented separately in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. This is required so that users of financial statements will be better able to make projections about the financial position, profits and cash flows of the entity.

### Key term

**Disposal group:** a group of assets to be disposed of, by sale or otherwise, together as a group in a single transaction, and liabilities directly associated with those assets that will be transferred in the transaction. (In practice, a disposal group could be a subsidiary, a cash-generating unit or a single operation within an entity.) (*IFRS 5*)

IFRS 5 does not apply to certain assets covered by other accounting standards:

- (a) Deferred tax assets (IAS 12)
- (b) Assets arising from employee benefits (IAS 19)
- (c) Financial assets (IAS 39)
- (d) Investment properties accounted for in accordance with the fair value model (IAS 40)
- (e) Agricultural and biological assets that are measured at fair value less estimated point of sale costs (IAS 41)
- (f) Insurance contracts (IFRS 4)

## 2 Classification of assets held for sale

A non-current asset (or disposal group) should be classified as **held for sale** if its carrying amount will be recovered **principally through a sale transaction** rather than **through continuing use**. A number of detailed criteria must be met:

- (a) The asset must be **available for immediate sale** in its present condition.
- (b) Its sale must be **highly probable** (ie, significantly more likely than not).

For the sale to be highly probable, the following must apply.

- (a) Management must be **committed** to a plan to sell the asset.
- (b) There must be an active programme to **locate a buyer**.
- (c) The asset must be marketed for sale at a **price that is reasonable** in relation to its current fair value.
- (d) The sale should be expected to take place **within one year** from the date of classification.
- (e) It is unlikely that significant changes to the plan will be made or that the plan will be withdrawn.

An asset (or disposal group) can still be classified as held for sale, even if the sale has not actually taken place within one year. However, the delay must have been **caused by events or circumstances beyond the entity's control** and there must be sufficient evidence that the entity is still committed to sell the asset or disposal group. Otherwise the entity must cease to classify the asset as held for sale.

If an entity acquires a disposal group (eg, a subsidiary) exclusively with a view to its subsequent disposal it can classify the asset as held for sale only if the sale is expected to take place within one year and it is highly probable that all the other criteria will be met within a short time (normally three months).

An asset that is to be **abandoned** should not be classified as held for sale. This is because its carrying amount will be recovered principally through continuing use. However, a disposal group to be abandoned may meet the definition of a discontinued operation and therefore separate disclosure may be required (see below).



### Question

### Held for sale?

On 1 December 20X3, a company became committed to a plan to sell a manufacturing facility and has already found a potential buyer. The company does not intend to discontinue the operations currently carried out in the facility. At 31 December 20X3 there is a backlog of uncompleted customer orders. The subsidiary will not be able to transfer the facility to the buyer until after it ceases to operate the facility and has eliminated the backlog of uncompleted customer orders. This is not expected to occur until spring 20X4.

*Required*

Can the manufacturing facility be classified as 'held for sale' at 31 December 20X3?

### Answer

The facility will not be transferred until the backlog of orders is completed; this demonstrates that the facility is not available for immediate sale in its present condition. The facility cannot be classified as 'held for sale' at 31 December 20X3. It must be treated in the same way as other items of property, plant and equipment: it should continue to be depreciated and should not be separately disclosed.

## 3 Measurement of assets held for sale

### Key terms

**Fair value:** the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

**Costs to sell:** the incremental costs directly attributable to the disposal of an asset (or disposal group), excluding finance costs and income tax expense.

**Recoverable amount:** the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and its value in use.

**Value in use:** the present value of estimated future cash flows expected to arise from the continuing use of an asset and from its disposal at the end of its useful life.

A non-current asset (or disposal group) that is held for sale should be measured at the **lower of its carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell**. Fair value less costs to sell is equivalent to net realisable value.

An impairment loss should be recognised where fair value less costs to sell is lower than carrying amount. Note that this is an exception to the normal rule. IAS 36 *Impairment of assets* requires an entity to recognise an impairment loss only where an asset's recoverable amount is lower than its carrying value. Recoverable amount is defined as the higher of net realisable value and value in use. IAS 36 does not apply to assets held for sale.

Non-current assets held for sale **should not be depreciated**, even if they are still being used by the entity.

A non-current asset (or disposal group) that is **no longer classified as held for sale** (for example, because the sale has not taken place within one year) is measured at the **lower of**:

- (a) Its **carrying amount** before it was classified as held for sale, adjusted for any depreciation that would have been charged had the asset not been held for sale
- (b) Its **recoverable amount** at the date of the decision not to sell

## 4 Presenting discontinued operations

### Key terms

**Discontinued operation:** a component of an entity that has either been disposed of, or is classified as held for sale, and:

- (a) Represents a separate major line of business or geographical area of operations
- (b) Is part of a single co-ordinated plan to dispose of a separate major line of business or geographical area of operations, or
- (c) Is a subsidiary acquired exclusively with a view to resale.

**Component of an entity:** operations and cash flows that can be clearly distinguished, operationally and for financial reporting purposes, from the rest of the entity.

An entity should **present and disclose information** that enables users of the financial statements to evaluate the financial effects of **discontinued operations** and disposals of non-current assets or disposal groups.

An entity should disclose a **single amount** in the **statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income** comprising the total of:

- (a) The **post-tax profit or loss** of discontinued operations and
- (b) The post-tax gain or loss recognised on the **measurement to fair value less costs to sell** or on the disposal of the assets or disposal group(s) constituting the discontinued operation.

An entity should also disclose an **analysis** of the above single amount into:

- (a) The revenue, expenses and pre-tax profit or loss of discontinued operations

- (b) The related income tax expense
- (c) The gain or loss recognised on the measurement to fair value less costs to sell or on the disposal of the assets or the discontinued operation
- (d) The related income tax expense

This may be presented either in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income or in the notes. If it is presented in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income it should be presented in a section identified as relating to discontinued operations, ie separately from continuing operations. This analysis is not required where the discontinued operation is a newly acquired subsidiary that has been classified as held for sale.

An entity should disclose the **net cash flows** attributable to the operating, investing and financing activities of discontinued operations. These disclosures may be presented either on the face of the statement of cash flows or in the notes.

Gains and losses on the remeasurement of a disposal group that is not a discontinued operation but is held for sale should be included in profit or loss from continuing operations.

## 4.1 Illustration

The following illustration is taken from the implementation guidance to IFRS 5. Profit for the year from discontinued operations would be analysed in the notes.

XYZ GROUP

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X2

|  | 20X2     | 20X1     |
|--|----------|----------|
|  | \$'000   | \$'000   |
| <i>Continuing operations</i>                     |          |          |
| Revenue  | X        | X        |
| Cost of sales                                    | (X)      | (X)      |
| Gross profit                                     | X        | X        |
| Other income                                     | X        | X        |
| Distribution costs                               | (X)      | (X)      |
| Administrative expenses                          | (X)      | (X)      |
| Other expenses                                   | (X)      | (X)      |
| Finance costs                                    | (X)      | (X)      |
| Share of profit of associates                    | X        | X        |
| Profit before tax                                | X        | X        |
| Income tax expense                               | (X)      | (X)      |
| Profit for the year from continuing operations   | <u>X</u> | <u>X</u> |
| <i>Discontinued operations</i>                   |          |          |
| Profit for the year from discontinued operations | X        | X        |
| Profit for the year                              | <u>X</u> | <u>X</u> |
| Period attributable to:                          |          |          |
| Owners of the parent                             | X        | X        |
| Non-controlling interest                         | <u>X</u> | <u>X</u> |

An alternative to this presentation would be to analyse the profit from discontinued operations in a separate column in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.



### Question

### Treatment of closure

On 20 October 20X3 the directors of a parent company made a public announcement of plans to close a steel works. The closure means that the group will no longer carry out this type of operation, which until recently has represented about 10% of its total turnover. The works will be gradually shut down over a period of several months, with complete closure expected in July 20X4. At 31 December output had been significantly reduced and some redundancies had already taken place. The cash flows, revenues and

expenses relating to the steel works can be clearly distinguished from those of the subsidiary's other operations.

*Required*

How should the closure be treated in the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 20X3?

## Answer

Because the steel works is being closed, rather than sold, it cannot be classified as 'held for sale'. In addition, the steel works is not a discontinued operation. Although at 31 December 20X3 the group was firmly committed to the closure, this has not yet taken place and therefore the steel works must be included in continuing operations. Information about the planned closure could be disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

## 4.2 Presentation of a non-current asset or disposal group classified as held for sale

Non-current assets and disposal groups classified as held for sale should be **presented separately** from other assets in the statement of financial position. The liabilities of a disposal group should be presented separately from other liabilities in the statement of financial position.

- (a) Assets and liabilities held for sale **should not be offset**.
- (b) The **major classes** of assets and liabilities held for sale should be **separately disclosed** either in the statement of financial position or in the notes.

## 4.3 Additional disclosures

In the period in which a non-current asset (or disposal group) has been either classified as held for sale or sold the following should be disclosed.

- (a) A **description** of the non-current asset (or disposal group)
- (b) A description of the **facts and circumstances** of the disposal
- (c) Any **gain or loss** recognised when the item was classified as held for sale
- (d) If applicable, the **segment** in which the non-current asset (or disposal group) is presented in accordance with IFRS 8 *Operating segments*

Where an asset previously classified as held for sale is **no longer held for sale**, the entity should disclose a description of the facts and circumstances leading to the decision and its effect on results.

## Chapter Roundup

- **IFRS 5** requires assets 'held for sale' to be presented separately in the statement of financial position.
- The results of discontinued operations should be presented separately in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 For a non-current asset to be held for sale, a buyer must already have been found. True or false?
- 2 An asset held for sale should be measured at the lower of..... and .....  
(Fill in the blanks.)

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 False. There must be an **active programme** to locate a buyer.
- 2 The lower of **its carrying amount** and **fair value less costs to sell**.



# 16

## Foreign currency transactions and entities

| Topic list  | Syllabus reference |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 Foreign currency translation                    | D4                 |
| 2 IAS 21: Individual company stage                | D4                 |
| 3 IAS 21: Consolidated financial statements stage | D4                 |

### Introduction

Many of the largest companies in any country, while based there, have subsidiaries and other interests all over the world: they are truly **global companies** and so foreign currency consolidations take place frequently in practice.

## Study guide

|           |   | Intellectual level |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| <b>D4</b> | <b>Foreign transactions and entities</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Outline and apply the translation of foreign currency amounts and transactions into the functional currency and the presentation currency | 3                  |
| (b)       | Account for the consolidation of foreign operations and their disposal  | 3                  |

## Exam guide

Foreign currency consolidation questions are likely to appear frequently in Paper P2. Students have always found such questions difficult but, as with most financial accounting topics, you only need to adopt a **logical approach** and to **practise plenty of questions**.

## 1 Foreign currency translation

### FAST FORWARD

Questions on foreign currency translation have always been popular with examiners. In general, you are required to prepare **consolidated accounts** for a group which includes a foreign subsidiary.

If a company trades overseas, it will buy or sell assets in foreign currencies. For example, an Indian company might buy materials from Canada, and pay for them in US dollars, and then sell its finished goods in Germany, receiving payment in Euros, or perhaps in some other currency. If the company owes money in a foreign currency at the end of the accounting year, or holds assets which were bought in a foreign currency, those liabilities or assets must be translated into the local currency (in this Text \$), in order to be shown in the books of account.

A company might have a subsidiary abroad (ie a foreign entity that it owns), and the subsidiary will trade in its own local currency. The subsidiary will keep books of account and prepare its annual accounts in its own currency. However, at the year end, the holding company must 'consolidate' the results of the overseas subsidiary into its group accounts, so that somehow, the assets and liabilities and the annual profits of the subsidiary must be translated from the foreign currency into \$.

If foreign currency exchange rates remained constant, there would be no accounting problem. As you will be aware, however, foreign exchange rates are continually changing, and it is not inconceivable for example, that the rate of exchange between the Polish zlotych and sterling might be Z6.2 to £1 at the start of the accounting year, and Z5.6 to £1 at the end of the year (in this example, a 10% increase in the relative strength of the zlotych).

There are two distinct types of foreign currency transaction, conversion and translation.

### 1.1 Conversion gains and losses

**Conversion is the process of exchanging amounts of one foreign currency for another.** For example, suppose a local company buys a large consignment of goods from a supplier in Germany. The order is placed on 1 May and the agreed price is €124,250. At the time of delivery the rate of foreign exchange was €3.50 to \$1. The local company would record the amount owed in its books as follows.

|        |  |          |          |
|--------|--|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | Inventory account ( $124,250 \div 3.5$ ) | \$35,500 |          |
| CREDIT | Payables account                         |          | \$35,500 |

When the local company comes to pay the supplier, it needs to obtain some foreign currency. By this time, however, if the rate of exchange has altered to €3.55 to \$1, the cost of raising €124,250 would be ( $\div 3.55$ ) \$35,000. The company would need to spend only \$35,000 to settle a debt for inventories 'costing' \$35,500. Since it would be administratively difficult to alter the value of the inventories in the company's books of account, it is more appropriate to record a profit on conversion of \$500.

|        |                      |          |          |
|--------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | Payables account     | \$35,500 |          |
| CREDIT | Cash                 |          | \$35,000 |
| CREDIT | Profit on conversion |          | \$500    |

Profits (or losses) on conversion would be included in profit of loss for the year in which conversion (whether payment or receipt) takes place.

Suppose that another home company sells goods to a Chinese company, and it is agreed that payment should be made in Chinese Yuan at a price of Y116,000. We will further assume that the exchange rate at the time of sale is Y10.75 to \$1, but when the debt is eventually paid, the rate has altered to Y10.8 to \$1. The company would record the sale as follows.

|        |  |          |          |
|--------|--|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | Receivables account ( $116,000 \div 10.75$ ) | \$10,800 |          |
| CREDIT | Sales account                                |          | \$10,800 |

When the Y116,000 are paid, the local company will convert them into \$, to obtain ( $\div 10.8$ ) \$10,750. In this example, there has been a loss on conversion of \$50 which will be written off to profit of loss for the year:

|        |                     |          |          |
|--------|---------------------|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | Cash                | \$10,750 |          |
| DEBIT  | Loss on conversion  | \$50     |          |
| CREDIT | Receivables account |          | \$10,800 |

There are **no accounting difficulties** concerned with foreign currency conversion gains or losses, and the procedures described above are uncontroversial.

## 1.2 Translation

Foreign currency translation, as distinct from conversion, does not involve the act of exchanging one currency for another. **Translation is required at the end of an accounting period when a company still holds assets or liabilities in its statement of financial position which were obtained or incurred in a foreign currency.**

These assets or liabilities might consist of any of the following.

- An individual home company holding individual **assets** or **liabilities** originating in a foreign currency 'deal'.
- An individual home company with a separate **branch** of the business operating abroad which keeps its own books of account in the local currency.
- A home company which wishes to consolidate the **results of a foreign subsidiary**.

There has been great **uncertainty** about the method which should be used to translate the following.

- Value of assets and liabilities from a foreign currency into \$ for the year end statement of financial position
- Profits of an independent foreign branch or subsidiary into \$ for the annual statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

Suppose, for example, that a Belgian subsidiary purchases a piece of property for €2,100,000 on 31 December 20X7. The rate of exchange at this time was €70 to \$1. During 20X8, the subsidiary charged depreciation on the building of €16,800, so that at 31 December 20X8, the subsidiary recorded the asset as follows.

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Property at cost              | €                |
|                               | 2,100,000        |
| Less accumulated depreciation | 16,800           |
| Net book value                | <u>2,083,200</u> |

At this date, the rate of exchange has changed to €60 to \$1.

The local holding company must translate the asset's value into \$, but there is a **choice of exchange rates**.

- (a) Should the rate of exchange for translation be the rate which existed at the date of purchase, which would give a net book value of  $2,083,200 \div 70 = \$29,760$ ?
- (b) Should the rate of exchange for translation be the rate existing at the end of 20X8 (the closing rate of €60 to \$1)? This would give a net book value of \$34,720.

Similarly, should depreciation be charged to group profit or loss at the rate of €70 to \$1 (the historical rate), €60 to \$1 (the closing rate), or at an average rate for the year (say, €64 to \$1)?

## 1.3 Consolidated accounts

If a parent has a subsidiary whose accounts are presented in a foreign currency, those accounts must be translated into the local currency before they can be included in the consolidated financial statements.

- Should the subsidiary's accounts be translated as if the subsidiary is an extension of the parent?
- Or should they be translated as if the subsidiary is a separate business?

As we will see in more detail later in the chapter, the translation rules will depend on which currency has most impact on the subsidiary. If this is the same as the parent's currency, the rules will follow those used in the financial statements of a single company (covered in Section 2 below).

Where a foreign operation is mainly exposed to a different currency and is effectively a separate business, the **closing rate** is used for most items in the statement of financial position. **Exchange differences** are recognised in **other comprehensive income**.

We will look at the consolidation of foreign subsidiaries in much more detail in Section 3 of this chapter.

## 2 IAS 21: Individual company stage

The questions discussed above are addressed by IAS 21 *The effects of changes in foreign exchange rates*. We will examine those matters which affect single company accounts here.

### 2.1 Definitions

These are some of the definitions given by IAS 21.

#### Key terms

**Foreign currency.** A currency other than the functional currency of the entity.

**Functional currency.** The currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates.

**Presentation currency.** The currency in which the financial statements are presented.

**Exchange rate.** The ratio of exchange for two currencies.

**Exchange difference.** The difference resulting from translating a given number of units of one currency into another currency at different exchange rates.

**Closing rate.** The spot exchange rate at the year end date.

**Spot exchange rate.** The exchange rate for immediate delivery.

**Monetary items.** Units of currency held and assets and liabilities to be received or paid in a fixed or determinable number of units of currency. (IAS 21)

Each entity – whether an individual company, a parent of a group, or an operation within a group (such as a subsidiary, associate or branch) – should determine its **functional currency** and **measure its results and financial position in that currency**.

For most individual companies the functional currency will be the currency of the country in which they are located and in which they carry out most of their transactions. Determining the functional currency is much more likely to be an issue where an entity operates as part of a group. IAS 21 contains detailed guidance on how to determine an entity's functional currency and we will look at this in more detail in Section 3.

An entity can present its financial statements in any currency (or currencies) it chooses. IAS 21 deals with the situation in which financial statements are presented in a currency other than the functional currency.

Again, this is unlikely to be an issue for most individual companies. Their presentation currency will normally be the same as their functional currency (the currency of the country in which they operate). A company's presentation currency may be different from its functional currency if it operates within a group and we will look at this in Section 3.

## 2.2 Foreign currency transactions: initial recognition

IAS 21 states that a foreign currency transaction should be recorded, on initial recognition in the functional currency, by applying the exchange rate between the reporting currency and the foreign currency **at the date of the transaction** to the foreign currency amount.

An **average rate** for a period may be used if exchange rates do not fluctuate significantly.

## 2.3 Reporting at subsequent year ends

The following rules apply at each subsequent year end.

- (a) Report foreign currency **monetary items** using the **closing rate**
- (b) Report **non-monetary items** (eg non-current assets, inventories) which are carried at **historical cost** in a foreign currency using the **exchange rate at the date of the transaction** (historical rate)
- (c) Report **non-monetary items** which are carried at **fair value** in a foreign currency using the exchange rates that existed **when the values were measured**.

## 2.4 Recognition of exchange differences

Exchange differences occur when there is a **change in the exchange rate** between the transaction date and the date of settlement of monetary items arising from a foreign currency transaction.

Exchange differences arising on the settlement of monetary items (receivables, payables, loans, cash in a foreign currency) or on translating an entity's monetary items at rates different from those at which they were translated initially, or reported in previous financial statements, should be **recognised in profit or loss** in the period in which they arise.

There are two situations to consider.

- (a) The transaction is **settled in the same period** as that in which it occurred: all the exchange difference is recognised in that period.
- (b) The transaction is **settled in a subsequent accounting period**: the exchange difference recognised in each intervening period up to the period of settlement is determined by the change in exchange rates during that period.

In other words, where a monetary item has not been settled at the end of a period, it should be **restated using the closing exchange rate** and any gain or loss taken to profit or loss.



### Question

### Entries

White Cliffs Co, whose year end is 31 December, buys some goods from Rinka SA of France on 30 September. The invoice value is €40,000 and is due for settlement in equal instalments on 30 November and 31 January. The exchange rate moved as follows.

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
|              | € = \$1 |
| 30 September | 1.60    |
| 30 November  | 1.80    |
| 31 December  | 1.90    |
| 31 January   | 1.85    |

### Required

State the accounting entries in the books of White Cliffs Co.

### Answer

The purchase will be recorded in the books of White Cliffs Co using the rate of exchange ruling on 30 September.

|        |                |          |          |
|--------|----------------|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | Purchases      | \$25,000 |          |
| CREDIT | Trade payables |          | \$25,000 |

Being the \$ cost of goods purchased for €40,000 ( $€40,000 \div €1.60/\$1$ )

On 30 November, White Cliffs must pay €20,000. This will cost  $€20,000 \div €1.80/\$1 = \$11,111$  and the company has therefore made an exchange gain of  $\$12,500 - \$11,111 = \$1,389$ .

|        |                               |          |          |
|--------|-------------------------------|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | Trade payables                | \$12,500 |          |
| CREDIT | Exchange gains: I & E account |          | \$1,389  |
| CREDIT | Cash                          |          | \$11,111 |

On 31 December, the year end, the outstanding liability will be recalculated using the rate applicable to that date:  $€20,000 \div €1.90/\$1 = \$10,526$ . A further exchange gain of \$1,974 has been made and will be recorded as follows.

|        |                               |         |         |
|--------|-------------------------------|---------|---------|
| DEBIT  | Trade payables                | \$1,974 |         |
| CREDIT | Exchange gains: I & E account |         | \$1,974 |

The total exchange gain of \$3,363 will be included in the operating profit for the year ending 31 December.

On 31 January, White Cliffs must pay the second instalment of €20,000. This will cost them \$10,811 ( $€20,000 \div €1.85/\$1$ ).

|        |                                |          |          |
|--------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | Trade payables                 | \$10,526 |          |
|        | Exchange losses: I & E account | \$285    |          |
| CREDIT | Cash                           |          | \$10,811 |

When a gain or loss on a non-monetary item is recognised **in other comprehensive income** (for example, where property is revalued), any **related exchange differences** should also be **recognised in other comprehensive income**.

## 3 IAS 21: Consolidated financial statements stage

6/08, 6/11

### 3.1 Definitions

The following definitions are relevant here.

#### Key terms

**Foreign operation.** A subsidiary, associate, joint venture or branch of a reporting entity, the activities of which are based or conducted in a country or currency other than those of the reporting entity.

**Net investment in a foreign operation.** The amount of the reporting entity's interest in the net assets of that operation. (IAS 21)

## 3.2 Determining functional currency

### FAST FORWARD

You may have to make the decision yourself as to whether the subsidiary has the same functional currency as the parent or a different functional currency from the parent. This determines whether the subsidiary is treated as an **extension of the parent** or as a **net investment**.

A holding or parent company with foreign operations must **translate the financial statements** of those operations into its own reporting currency before they can be consolidated into the group accounts. There are two methods: **the method used depends upon whether** the foreign operation has the **same functional currency as the parent**.

IAS 21 states that an entity should consider the following factors in determining its functional currency:

- (a) The currency that mainly **influences sales prices** for goods and services (often the currency in which prices are denominated and settled)
- (b) The currency of the **country whose competitive forces and regulations** mainly determine the sales prices of its goods and services
- (c) The currency that mainly **influences labour, material and other costs** of providing goods or services (often the currency in which prices are denominated and settled)

Sometimes the functional currency of an entity is not immediately obvious. Management must then exercise judgement and may also need to consider:

- (a) The currency in which **funds from financing activities** (raising loans and issuing equity) are generated
- (b) The currency in which **receipts from operating activities** are usually retained

Where a parent has a foreign operation a number of factors are considered:

- (a) Whether the activities of the foreign operation are carried out as an **extension of the parent**, rather than being carried out with a **significant degree of autonomy**.
- (b) Whether **transactions with the parent** are a high or a low proportion of the foreign operation's activities.
- (c) Whether **cash flows** from the activities of the foreign operation **directly affect the cash flows of the parent** and are readily available for remittance to it.
- (d) Whether the activities of the foreign operation are **financed from its own cash flows** or by **borrowing from the parent**.

### Exam focus point

A question involving foreign currency is almost certain, in P2, to consist of a foreign operation consolidation.

To sum up: in order to determine the functional currency of a foreign operation it is necessary to consider the **relationship** between the foreign operation and its parent:

- If the foreign operation carries out its business as though it were an **extension of the parent's operations**, it almost certainly has the **same functional currency** as the parent.
- If the foreign operation is **semi-autonomous** it almost certainly has a **different functional currency** from the parent.

The translation method used has to reflect the economic reality of the relationship between the reporting entity (the parent) and the foreign operation.

### 3.2.1 Same functional currency as the reporting entity

In this situation, the foreign operation normally carries on its business as though it were an **extension of the reporting entity's operations**. For example, it may only sell goods imported from, and remit the proceeds directly to, the reporting entity.

Any **movement in the exchange rate** between the reporting currency and the foreign operation's currency will have an **immediate impact** on the reporting entity's cash flows from the foreign operations. In other words, changes in the exchange rate affect the **individual monetary items** held by the foreign operation, *not* the reporting entity's net investment in that operation.

### 3.2.2 Different functional currency from the reporting entity

In this situation, although the reporting entity may be able to exercise control, the foreign operation normally operates in a **semi-autonomous** way. It accumulates cash and other monetary items, generates income and incurs expenses, and may also arrange borrowings, all **in its own local currency**.

A change in the exchange rate will produce **little or no direct effect on the present and future cash flows** from operations of either the foreign operation or the reporting entity. Rather, the change in exchange rate affects the reporting entity's **net investment** in the foreign operation, not the individual monetary and non-monetary items held by the foreign operation.

#### Exam focus point

Where the foreign operation's functional currency is different from the parent's, the financial statements need to be translated before consolidation.

### 3.3 Accounting treatment: different functional currency from the reporting entity

The financial statements of the foreign operation must be translated to the functional currency of the parent. Different procedures must be followed here, because the functional currency of the parent is the **presentation currency** of the foreign operation.

- (a) The **assets and liabilities** shown in the foreign operation's statement of financial position are translated at the **closing rate** at the year end, regardless of the date on which those items originated. The balancing figure in the translated statement of financial position represents the reporting entity's net investment in the foreign operation.
- (b) Amounts in the **statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income** should be translated at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction (an **average rate** will usually be used for practical purposes).
- (c) **Exchange differences** arising from the re-translation at the end of each year of the parent's net investment should be **recognised in other comprehensive income**, not through the profit or loss for the year, until the disposal of the net investment. On disposal, the gains or losses recognised to date will be reclassified to profit or loss.

### 3.4 Example: Different functional currency from the reporting entity

A dollar-based company, Stone Co, set up a foreign subsidiary on 30 June 20X7. Stone subscribed €24,000 for share capital when the exchange rate was €2 = \$1. The subsidiary, Brick Inc, borrowed €72,000 and bought a non-monetary asset for €96,000. Stone Co prepared its accounts on 31 December 20X7 and by that time the exchange rate had moved to €3 = \$1. As a result of highly unusual circumstances, Brick Inc sold its asset early in 20X8 for €96,000. It repaid its loan and was liquidated. Stone's capital of €24,000 was repaid in February 20X8 when the exchange rate was €3 = \$1.

#### Required

Account for the above transactions as if the entity has a different functional currency from the parent.

#### Solution

From the above it can be seen that Stone Co will record its initial investment at \$12,000 which is the starting cost of its shares. The statement of financial position of Brick Inc at 31 December 20X7 is summarised below.



|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
|                    | \$'000    |
| Non-monetary asset | <u>96</u> |
| Share capital      | 24        |
| Loan               | <u>72</u> |
|                    | <u>96</u> |

This may be translated as follows.

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
|   | \$'000    |
| Non-monetary asset<br>(€3 = \$1)                                  | <u>32</u> |
| Share capital and reserves (retained earnings) (balancing figure) | 8         |
| Loan (€3 = \$1)   | <u>24</u> |
|   | <u>32</u> |

Exchange gain/(loss) for 20X7 (4)

The exchange gain and loss are the differences between the value of the original investment (\$12,000) and the total of share capital and reserves (retained earnings) as disclosed by the above statements of financial position.

On liquidation, Stone Co will receive \$8,000 (€24,000 converted at €3 = \$1). No gain or loss will arise in 20X8.

### 3.5 Some practical points

The following points apply.

- For consolidation purposes calculations are simpler if a subsidiary's share capital is translated at the **historical rate** (the rate when the investing company acquired its interest) and post-acquisition reserves are found as a balancing figure.
- IAS 21 requires that the accumulated exchange differences should be shown as a separate component of equity but for exam purposes these can be merged with retained earnings.

You must be able to calculate **exchange differences**.

#### FAST FORWARD

**Practising** examination questions is the best way of learning this topic.

### 3.6 Summary of method

A summary of the translation method is given below, which shows the main steps to follow in the consolidation process.

#### Exam focus point

You should learn this summary.

|   | Translation   |
|---|---|
| <b>Step 1</b>   |   |
| Translate the <b>closing statement of financial position</b> (assets/equity) and use this for preparing the consolidated statement of financial position in the normal way. | Use the <b>closing rate</b> at the year end for all items (see note to step 4). |

|  | Translation  |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |
|--|--|----|------------------------------------|--|----------|---|---|--|----------|----------|--|---|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| <b>Step 2</b>  |  |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |
| <p>Translate the <b>statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income</b>.</p> <p>(In all cases, dividends should be translated at the rate ruling when the dividend was paid.)</p>   | <p>Use the <b>average rate</b> for the year for all items (but see comment on dividends). The figures obtained can then be used in preparing the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income but the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income cannot be completed until the exchange difference has been calculated.</p> |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |
| <b>Step 3</b>  |  |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |
| <p>Translate the <b>shareholders' funds</b> (net assets) at the beginning of the year.</p>   | <p>Use the <b>closing rate</b> at the beginning of the year (the opening rate for the current year).</p>   |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |
| <b>Step 4</b>  |  |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |
| <p>Calculate the <b>total exchange difference</b> for the year as follows.</p> <table> <tr> <td></td><td>\$</td></tr> <tr> <td>Closing net assets at closing rate</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>(Step 1)</td><td>X</td></tr> <tr> <td>Less opening net assets at opening rate</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>(Step 3)</td><td><u>X</u></td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>X</td></tr> <tr> <td>Less retained profit as translated</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>(Step 2 less any dividends)</td><td><u>X</u></td></tr> <tr> <td>Exchange differences</td><td><u><u>X</u></u></td></tr> </table> <p>It may be necessary to adjust for any profits or losses taken direct to reserves during the year.</p> |  | \$ | Closing net assets at closing rate |  | (Step 1) | X | Less opening net assets at opening rate |  | (Step 3) | <u>X</u> |  | X | Less retained profit as translated |  | (Step 2 less any dividends) | <u>X</u> | Exchange differences | <u><u>X</u></u> | <p>This stage will be <b>unnecessary</b> if you are only required to prepare the statement of financial position. If you are asked to state the total exchange differences or are asked to prepare a statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, where the exchange difference will be shown.</p> <p>For <b>exam purposes</b> you can translate the closing shareholders' funds as follows.</p> <p>(a) Share capital + pre-acquisition reserves at historical rate.</p> <p>(b) Post-acquisition reserves as a balancing figure.</p> |
|  | \$   |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |
| Closing net assets at closing rate   |  |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |
| (Step 1)   | X  |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |
| Less opening net assets at opening rate  |  |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |
| (Step 3)   | <u>X</u>   |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |
|  | X  |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |
| Less retained profit as translated   |  |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |
| (Step 2 less any dividends)  | <u>X</u>   |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |
| Exchange differences   | <u><u>X</u></u>  |    |                                    |  |          |   |   |  |          |          |  |   |                                    |  |                             |          |                      |                 |   |



## Question

## Consolidated financial statements

The abridged statements of financial position and statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive incomes of Darius Co and its foreign subsidiary, Xerxes Inc, appear below.

DRAFT STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 20X9

|                      | Darius Co<br>\$ | Xerxes Inc<br>€ |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Assets</b>        |                 |                 |
| Non-current assets   |                 |                 |
| Plant at cost        | 600             | 500             |
| Less depreciation    | <u>(250)</u>    | <u>(200)</u>    |
|                      | 350             | 300             |
| Investment in Xerxes |                 |                 |
| 100 €1 shares        | <u>25</u>       | <u>—</u>        |
|                      | 375             | 300             |
| Current assets       |                 |                 |
| Inventories          | 225             | 200             |
| Receivables          | <u>150</u>      | <u>100</u>      |
|                      | 375             | 300             |

|                               | <i>Darius Co</i> | <i>Xerxes Inc</i> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                               | \$               | €                 |
|                               | <u>750</u>       | <u>600</u>        |
| <i>Equity and liabilities</i> |                  |                   |
| Equity                        |                  |                   |
| Ordinary \$1/€1 shares        | 300              | 100               |
| Retained earnings             | <u>300</u>       | <u>280</u>        |
|                               | 600              | 380               |
| Long-term loans               | 50               | 110               |
| Current liabilities           | <u>100</u>       | <u>110</u>        |
|                               | <u>750</u>       | <u>600</u>        |

STATEMENTS OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X9

|                            | <i>Darius Co</i> | <i>Xerxes Inc</i> |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                            | \$               | €                 |
| Profit before tax          | 200              | 160               |
| Tax                        | <u>100</u>       | <u>80</u>         |
| Profit after tax, retained | <u>100</u>       | <u>80</u>         |

The following further information is given.

- Darius Co has had its interest in Xerxes Inc since the incorporation of the company. Neither company paid dividends during the year to 31 December 20X9 and neither company had any other comprehensive income in their separate financial statements.
- Depreciation is 8% per annum on cost.
- There have been no loan repayments or movements in non-current assets during the year. The opening inventory of Xerxes Inc was €120. Assume that inventory turnover times are very short.
- Exchange rates:
  - € 4 to \$1 when Xerxes Inc was incorporated
  - € 2.5 to \$1 when Xerxes Inc acquired its non-current assets
  - € 2 to \$1 on 31 December 20X8
  - € 1.6 to \$1 average rate of exchange year ending 31 December 20X9
  - € 1 to \$1 on 31 December 20X9.

*Required*

Prepare the summarised consolidated financial statements of Darius Co.

**Answer**

**Step 1**

The statement of financial position of Xerxes Inc at 31 December 20X9, other than share capital and retained earnings, should be translated at €1 = \$1.

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 DECEMBER 20X9

|                          | \$         |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Non-current assets (NBV) | <u>300</u> |
| Current assets           |            |
| Inventories              | 200        |
| Receivables              | <u>100</u> |
|                          | 300        |
|                          | <u>600</u> |
| Non-current liabilities  | 110        |
| Current liabilities      | 110        |

$$\therefore \text{Shareholders' funds} = 600 - 110 - 110 = \$380$$

Since Darius Co acquired the whole of the issued share capital on incorporation, the post-acquisition retained earnings including exchange differences will be the value of shareholders' funds arrived at above, less the original cost to Darius Co of \$25.

Post-acquisition retained earnings = \$380 – \$25 = \$355.

#### SUMMARISED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 20X9

|                                   |               | \$           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Assets</i>                     |               |              |
| Non-current assets (NBV)          | \$(350 + 300) | 650          |
| Current assets                    |               |              |
| Inventories                       | \$(225 + 200) | 425          |
| Receivables                       | \$(150 + 100) | 250          |
|                                   |               | <u>675</u>   |
|                                   |               | <u>1,325</u> |
| <i>Equity and liabilities</i>     |               |              |
| <i>Equity</i>                     |               |              |
| Ordinary \$1 shares (Darius only) |               | 300          |
| Retained earnings                 | \$(300 + 355) | 655          |
|                                   |               | <u>955</u>   |
| Non-current liabilities: loans    | \$(50 + 110)  | 160          |
| Current liabilities               | \$(100 + 110) | 210          |
|                                   |               | <u>1,325</u> |

*Note.* It is quite unnecessary to know the amount of the exchange differences when preparing the consolidated statement of financial position.

### Step 2

The statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be translated at average rate (€1.6 = \$1).

XERXES INC

#### SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X9

|                   | \$        |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Profit before tax | 100       |
| Tax               | <u>50</u> |
| Profit after tax  | <u>50</u> |

#### SUMMARISED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X9

|                   |               | \$         |
|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| Profit before tax | \$(200 + 100) | 300        |
| Tax               | \$(100 + 50)  | 150        |
| Profit after tax  | \$(100 + 50)  | <u>150</u> |

The statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income cannot be completed until the exchange difference has been calculated.

### Step 3

The equity interest at the beginning of the year can be found as follows.

|                                    | €          |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Equity value at 31 December 20X9   | 380        |
| Retained profit for year           | <u>80</u>  |
| Equity value at 31 December 20X8   | <u>300</u> |
| Translated at €2 = \$1, this gives | \$150      |

### Step 4

The exchange difference can now be calculated and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income completed.

|   |            |
|---|------------|
|   | \$         |
| Equity interest at 31 December 20X9 (stage 1) | 380        |
| Equity interest at 1 January 20X9 (stage 3)   | <u>150</u> |
|   | 230        |
| Less retained profit (stage 2)                | <u>50</u>  |
| Exchange gain                                 | <u>180</u> |

SUMMARISED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X9

|   |               |            |
|---|---------------|------------|
|   |               | \$         |
| Profit before tax   | \$(200 + 100) | 300        |
| Tax   | \$(100 + 50)  | <u>150</u> |
| Profit after tax  | \$(100 + 50)  | 150        |
| Other comprehensive income (items that may be re-classified to profit or loss*) |               |            |
| Exchange difference on translating foreign operations                           |               | <u>180</u> |
| Total comprehensive income  |               | <u>330</u> |

\*See Chapter 18 for an explanation of this caption.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY (EXTRACT FOR RESERVES) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X9

|   |            |
|---|------------|
|   | \$         |
| Consolidated reserves at 31 December 20X8 | 325        |
| Total comprehensive income                | <u>330</u> |
| Consolidated reserves at 31 December 20X9 | <u>655</u> |

(Note. The post-acquisition reserves of Xerxes Inc at the beginning of the year must have been \$150 – \$25 = \$125 and the reserves of Darius Co must have been \$300 – \$100 = \$200. The consolidated reserves must therefore have been \$325.)

### 3.7 Analysis of exchange differences

The exchange differences in the above exercise could be reconciled by splitting them into their component parts.

**Exam focus point**

Such a split is not required by IAS 21, nor is it required in your exam, but it may help your understanding of the subject.

The exchange difference consists of those exchange gains/losses arising from:

- Translating **income/expense items** at the exchange rates at the date of transactions, whereas **assets/liabilities** are translated at the closing rate.
- Translating the **opening net investment** (opening net assets) in the foreign entity at a closing rate different from the closing rate at which it was previously reported.

This can be demonstrated using the above question.

Using the opening statement of financial position and translating at €2 = \$1 and €1 = \$1 gives the following.

|                                  | €2 = \$1    | €1 = \$1    | Difference  |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                  | \$          | \$          | \$          |
| Non-current assets at NBV        | 170         | 340         | 170         |
| Inventories                      | 60          | 120         | 60          |
| Net current monetary liabilities | <u>(25)</u> | <u>(50)</u> | <u>(25)</u> |
|                                  | <u>205</u>  | <u>410</u>  | <u>205</u>  |
| Equity                           | 150         | 300         | 150         |
| Loans                            | <u>55</u>   | <u>110</u>  | <u>55</u>   |
|                                  | <u>205</u>  | <u>410</u>  | <u>205</u>  |

Translating the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income using €1.60 = \$1 and €1 = \$1 gives the following results.

|   | €1.60 = \$1<br>\$ | €1 = \$1<br>\$ | Difference<br>\$ |
|---|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Profit before tax, depreciation and<br>increase in inventory values         | 75                | 120            | 45               |
| Increase in inventory values  | <u>50</u>         | <u>80</u>      | <u>30</u>        |
|   | 125               | 200            | 75               |
| Depreciation  | <u>(25)</u>       | <u>(40)</u>    | <u>(15)</u>      |
|   | 100               | 160            | 60               |
| Tax   | <u>(50)</u>       | <u>(80)</u>    | <u>(30)</u>      |
| Profit after tax, retained  | <u>50</u>         | <u>80</u>      | <u>30</u>        |
| The overall position is then:   |                   |                |                  |
|   |                   | \$             | \$               |
| Gain on non-current assets (\$170 – \$15)                                   |                   |                | 155              |
| Loss on loan  |                   |                | (55)             |
| Gain on inventories (\$60 + \$30)   |                   | 90             |                  |
| Loss on net monetary current assets/<br>Liabilities (all other differences) |                   |                |                  |
| (\$45 – \$30 – \$25)  |                   | (10)           |                  |
|   |                   |                | <u>80</u>        |
| Net exchange gain: as above   |                   |                | <u>180</u>       |

### 3.8 Non-controlling interests

In problems involving non-controlling interest the following points should be noted.

- The figure for **non-controlling interest in the statement of financial position** will be calculated using the method seen in earlier chapters and including the appropriate proportion of the translated share capital and reserves of the subsidiary.
- The **non-controlling interest in the reconciliation following the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income** will be the appropriate proportion of dollar profits and other comprehensive income. The non-controlling interest in other comprehensive income will include their share of exchange differences on translating the subsidiary but will exclude exchange differences arising on retranslating goodwill (see below) if the group measures non-controlling interests at acquisition using the proportionate method.

### 3.9 Goodwill and fair value adjustments

Goodwill and fair value adjustments arising on the acquisition of a foreign operation should be treated as assets and liabilities of the acquired entity. This means that they should be expressed in the functional currency of the foreign operation and translated at the **closing rate**.

Here is a layout for calculating goodwill and the exchange gain or loss. The parent holds 90% of the shares. NCI is valued as the proportionate share of the fair value of the subsidiary's as identifiable net assets.

|  |        |          |         |        |
|--|--------|----------|---------|--------|
| <i>Goodwill</i>                        | F'000  | F'000    | Rate    | \$'000 |
| Consideration transferred (12,000 × 6) |        | 72,000   |         |        |
| Non-controlling interest               |        | 6,600    |         |        |
| 66,000 × 10%                           |        | 78,600   |         |        |
| Less:                                  |        |          |         |        |
| Less share capital                     | 40,000 |          |         |        |
| Pre acquisition retained earnings      | 26,000 |          |         |        |
|  |        | (66,000) |         |        |
| At 1.4.X1                              |        | 12,600   | 6*      | 2,100  |
| Foreign exchange gain                  |        | —        | Balance | 420    |
| At 31.3.X7                             |        | 12,600   | 5**     | 2,520  |

\* Historic rate  
\*\* Closing rate

### 3.10 Example: including goodwill and non-controlling interests

Henley acquired 70% of Saar a foreign company for Units 4,500 on 31 December 20X4 when the retained reserves of Saar were Units 1,125. No impairment losses had been necessary up to 31 December 20X7. Neither company paid or declared dividends during the year.

Group policy is to measure non-controlling interests at acquisition at their proportionate share of the fair value of the identifiable net assets.

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <i>Exchange rates</i>                                 | Units to \$1 |
| 31 December 20X4                                      | 4.5          |
| 31 December 20X6                                      | 4.3          |
| 31 December 20X7                                      | 4            |
| Average exchange rate for year ended 31 December 20X7 | 3.8          |

#### Required

Prepare the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of financial position and statement of changes in equity (attributable to equity holders of the parent *only*) for the Henley Group for the year ended 31 December 20X7.

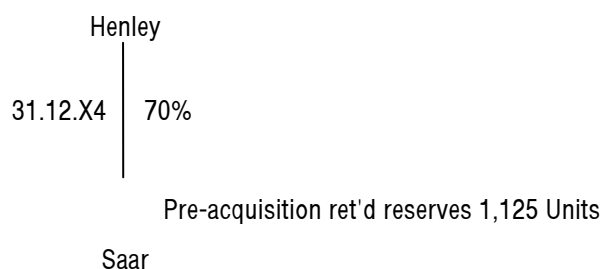
**Note.** In the exam you would expect the question to show the separate financial statements of the parent and the subsidiary. These have been included alongside the solution below, to make it easier to illustrate the methods being used.

### Solution

#### Statement of financial position

In questions asking for a full set of financial statements including a foreign subsidiary, it is always best to start with the statement of financial position. The starting point, as always, is to draw up the group structure:

#### Group structure



The following table includes:

- The separate statements of financial position of Henley and Saar, each in their own currency (these would normally be given within the question information)
- A column showing the exchange rates chosen to translate Saar's balances into \$
- A column showing the translated statement of financial position of Saar
- A final column showing the consolidated statement of financial position for the Saar Group (consolidation workings are shown below the table)

#### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 DECEMBER 20X7

|                                | <i>Henley</i> | <i>Saar</i>  | <i>Rate</i> | <i>Saar</i>  | <i>Consol</i> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
|                                | \$            | Units        |             | \$           | \$            |
| Property, plant and equipment  | 4,500         | 4,000        | 4           | 1,000        | 5,500         |
| Goodwill (W1)                  |               |              |             |              | 534           |
| Investment in Saar             | 1,000         |              |             |              |               |
| Current assets                 | 2,400         | 3,000        | 4           | 750          | 3,150         |
|                                | <u>7,900</u>  | <u>7,000</u> |             | <u>1,750</u> | <u>9,184</u>  |
| Share capital                  | 2,000         | 2,250        | 4.5         | 500          | 2,000         |
| Pre-acquisition reserves       |               | 1,125        | 4.5         | 250          |               |
|                                |               |              |             | 750          |               |
| Post-acquisition reserves (W2) | 4,400         | 2,825        | β           | 800          | 5,019         |
|                                | <u>6,400</u>  | <u>6,200</u> |             | 1,550        | 7,019         |
| Non-controlling interest       |               |              |             |              | 465           |
|                                |               |              |             |              | <u>7,484</u>  |
| Loans                          | 1,500         | 800          | 4           | 200          | 1,700         |
|                                | <u>7,900</u>  | <u>7,000</u> |             | <u>1,750</u> | <u>9,184</u>  |

#### Workings

##### 1 Goodwill

|   | <i>Units</i> | <i>Units</i> | <i>Rate</i> | <i>\$</i>  |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Consideration transferred               |              | 4,500        | 4.5         | 1,000      |
| Non-controlling interests (30% × 3,375) |              | 1,012        | 4.5         | 225        |
| Share capital                           | 2,250        |              |             |            |
| Retained reserves                       | <u>1,125</u> |              |             |            |
|   |              | (3,375)      | 4.5         | (750)      |
|   |              | <u>2,137</u> | 4.5         | <u>475</u> |
| Exchange gain 20X5-20X6 b/d             |              | —            | β           | 22         |
| At 31.12.X6                             |              | <u>2,137</u> | 4.3         | <u>497</u> |
| Exchange gain 20X7                      |              | —            | β           | 37         |
| At 31.12.X7                             |              | <u>2,137</u> | 4           | <u>534</u> |

**Note:** Goodwill is initially measured in the **subsidiary's currency**, then retranslated at each year end so that we can identify the cumulative exchange differences. In the consolidated statement of financial position these are taken to reserves (see working 2)

##### 2 Retained reserves carried forward

|  | <i>\$</i>    |
|--|--------------|
| Henley                                 | 4,400        |
| Saar (800(W2) × 70%)                   | 560          |
| Goodwill – exchange gain ((W1)22 + 37) | <u>59</u>    |
|  | <u>5,019</u> |

**Note:** The post-acquisition reserves of Saar have been taken from the translated statement of financial position of Saar, where it was calculated as a balancing figure.



### 3 Non-controlling interests (SOPF)

|  |            |
|--|------------|
|  | \$         |
| NCI at acquisition (W1)  | 225        |
| Add: NCI share of post-acquisition retained reserves of Saar<br>((W2) 800 × 30%) | <u>240</u> |
|  | <u>465</u> |

### Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

Again this has been laid out with the separate statements for the parent and subsidiary alongside the solution. The following table includes:

- The separate statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income of Henley and Saar, each in their own currency (these would normally be given within the question information)
- A column showing the exchange rates chosen to translate Saar's balances into \$
- A column showing the translated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income of Saar
- A final column showing the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the Saar Group (consolidation workings are shown below the table)

#### STATEMENTS OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X7

|  | Henley<br>\$   | Saar<br>Units  | Rate | Saar<br>\$   | Consol<br>\$   |
|--|----------------|----------------|------|--------------|----------------|
| Revenue  | 12,000         | 5,700          | 3.8  | 1,500        | 13,500         |
| Cost of sales  | <u>(7,000)</u> | <u>(2,470)</u> | 3.8  | <u>(650)</u> | <u>(7,650)</u> |
| Gross profit   | 5,000          | 3,230          |      | 850          | 5,850          |
| Operating expenses   | <u>(3,025)</u> | <u>(570)</u>   | 3.8  | <u>150</u>   | <u>(3,175)</u> |
| Profit before tax  | 1,975          | 2,660          |      | 700          | 2,675          |
| Income tax expense   | <u>(500)</u>   | <u>(760)</u>   | 3.8  | <u>(200)</u> | <u>(700)</u>   |
| Profit for the year  | 1,475          | 1,900          |      | <u>500</u>   | 1,975          |
| <i>Other comprehensive income:</i>   |                |                |      |              |                |
| Exchange difference on translating foreign operations (W4)                   |                |                |      |              | 87             |
| Total comprehensive income for the year                                      |                |                |      |              | <u>2,062</u>   |
| Profit attributable to:  |                |                |      |              |                |
| Equity holders of the parent   |                |                |      |              | 1,825          |
| Non-controlling interests (500 (from Saar's translated profit) × 30%)        |                |                |      |              | <u>150</u>     |
|  |                |                |      |              | <u>1,975</u>   |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to:                                  |                |                |      |              |                |
| Owners of the parent (2,062 – 165)   |                |                |      |              | 1,897          |
| Non-controlling interests ((500 (Saar's translated profit) + 50 (W4)) × 30%) |                |                |      |              | <u>165</u>     |
|  |                |                |      |              | <u>2,062</u>   |

*Note (i)* It is worth noticing that you can translate the subsidiary's figures, complete the consolidation as far as the profit for the year and complete the reconciliation of profit showing amounts attributable to the owners of the parent and to the non-controlling interest **before calculating the exchange difference**.

*Note (ii)* The **total** exchange differences arising are shown as other comprehensive income in the consolidated statement of financial position, but the non-controlling interest only includes the NCI share of the exchange difference on retranslating Saar's net assets. This is because there is no NCI in goodwill in this example as the group uses the proportionate method to measure non-controlling interests at acquisition.

*Workings (continued)*

|   |   |              |           |
|---|---|--------------|-----------|
| 4 | Exchange differences in period (gross)        | \$           | \$        |
|   | On translation of net assets                  |              |           |
|   | Closing NA @ CR (6,200 @ 4)                   | 1,550        |           |
|   | Opening NA @ OR ((Units 6,200 – 1,900) @ 4.3) | <u>1,000</u> |           |
|   |   | 550          |           |
|   | Less: Retained profit as translated           | <u>(500)</u> |           |
|   |   |              | 50        |
|   | On goodwill (W1)                              |              | <u>37</u> |
|   |   |              | <u>87</u> |

**Note:** The closing net asset figure is taken from Saar's local currency statement of financial position and translated at the year end rate. The opening net asset figure is calculated by deducting Saar's profit for the year to work back to the opening figure, then translating it at the prior year's closing rate.

**Statement of changes in equity**

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY (ATTRIBUTABLE TO EQUITY HOLDERS OF THE PARENT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X7

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
|  | \$           |
| Balance at 31 December 20X6 (2,000 + (W5) 3,122) | 5,122        |
| Total comprehensive income for the year          | <u>1,897</u> |
| Balance at 31 December 20X7 (per SOFP)           | <u>7,019</u> |

**Note:** If a question like this appears in the exam, notice that once you have completed the other requirements, you can take the year end figure for equity from the consolidated statement of financial position, and the total comprehensive income for the year from the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. At that point you could fill in a balancing figure for the brought forward balance. It can also be calculated by adding the parent's share capital to the brought forward group retained reserves (see working below).

|   |  |              |              |
|---|--|--------------|--------------|
| 5 | Retained reserves brought forward              | \$           | \$           |
|   | Henley per question (4,400 – 1,475)            |              | 2,925        |
|   | Saar NA b/d (W4)                               | 1,000        |              |
|   | NA at acquisition (see Saar's translated SOFP) | <u>(750)</u> |              |
|   |  | 250          |              |
|   | Saar – Group share (250 × 70%)                 |              | 175          |
|   | Exchange gain on goodwill b/d (W1)             |              | <u>22</u>    |
|   |  |              | <u>3,122</u> |

## 3.11 Further matters relating to foreign operations

### 3.11.1 Consolidation procedures

Follow normal consolidation procedures, except that where an exchange difference arises on **long – or short-term intra-group monetary items**, these cannot be offset against other intra-group balances. This is because these are commitments to convert one currency into another, thus exposing the reporting entity to a gain or loss through currency fluctuations.

If the foreign operation's **reporting date** is different from that of the parent, it is acceptable to use the accounts made up to that date for consolidation, as long as adjustments are made for any significant changes in rates in the interim.

### 3.11.2 Disposal of foreign entity

When a parent disposes of a foreign entity, the cumulative amount of deemed exchange differences relating to that foreign entity should be **recognised as an income or expense** in the same period in which the gain or loss on disposal is recognised. Effectively, this means that these exchange differences are recognised once by taking them to reserves and then are recognised for a second time ('recycled') by transferring them to profit or loss on disposal of the foreign operation.

### 3.11.3 In the parent's accounts

In the parent company's own accounts, exchange differences arising on a **monetary item** that is effectively part of the parent's net investment in the foreign entity should be recognised **in profit or loss** in the separate financial statements of the reporting entity or the individual financial statements of the foreign operation, as appropriate.

## 3.12 Change in functional currency

The functional currency of an entity can be changed only if there is a change to the underlying transactions, events and conditions that are relevant to the entity. For example, an entity's functional currency may change if there is a change in the currency that mainly influences the sales price of goods and services.

Where there is a change in an entity's functional currency, the entity translates all items into the new functional currency **prospectively** (ie, from the date of the change) using the exchange rate at the date of the change.

### 3.12.1 Tax effects of exchange differences

IAS 12 *Income taxes* should be applied when there are tax effects arising from gains or losses on foreign currency transactions and exchange differences arising on the translation of the financial statements of foreign operations.

### 3.12.2 Foreign associated undertakings

Foreign associates will be companies with substantial autonomy from the group and so their **functional currency will be different** from that of the parent.

## 3.13 Section summary

- Where the functional currency of a foreign operation is **different** from that of the parent/reporting entity, they need to be translated before consolidation
  - Operation is semi-autonomous
  - Translate assets and liabilities at **closing rate**
  - Translate statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income at **average rate**
  - Exchange differences through **reserves/equity**

## Chapter Roundup

- Questions on foreign currency translation have always been popular with examiners. In general, you are required to prepare **consolidated accounts** for a group which includes a foreign subsidiary.
- You may have to make the decision yourself as to whether the subsidiary has the same functional currency as the parent or a different functional currency from the parent. This determines whether the subsidiary is treated as an **extension of the parent** or as a **net investment**.
- **Practising** examination questions is the best way of learning this topic.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 What is the difference between conversion and translation?
- 2 Define 'monetary' items according to IAS 21.
- 3 How should foreign currency transactions be recognised initially in an individual enterprise's accounts?
- 4 What factors must management take into account when determining the functional currency of a foreign operation?
- 5 How should goodwill and fair value adjustments be treated on consolidation of a foreign operation?
- 6 When can an entity's functional currency be changed?

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 (a) Conversion is the process of exchanging one currency for another.  
(b) Translation is the restatement of the value of one currency in another currency.
- 2 Money held and assets and liabilities to be received or paid in fixed or determinable amounts of money.
- 3 Use the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. An average rate for a period can be used if the exchange rates did not fluctuate significantly.
- 4 See Section 3.2
- 5 Treat as assets/liabilities of the foreign operation and translate at the closing rate.
- 6 Only if there is a change to the underlying transactions relevant to the entity.

Now try the question below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level       | Marks | Time    |
|--------|-------------|-------|---------|
| Q20    | Examination | 18    | 32 mins |

# 17

## Group statements of cash flows

| Topic list                                      | Syllabus reference |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 Cash flows                                    | D1                 |
| 2 IAS 7 Statement of cash flows: single company | D1                 |
| 3 Consolidated statements of cash flows         | D1                 |

### Introduction

A statement of cash flows is an additional primary statement of **great value** to users of financial statements for the extra information it provides.

You should be familiar with the basic principles, techniques and definitions relating to statements of cash flows from your earlier studies. This chapter develops the principles and preparation techniques to include **consolidated financial statements**.

# Study guide

|     |   | Intellectual level |
|-----|---|--------------------|
| D1  | Group accounting including statements of cash flows |                    |
| (j) | Prepare and discuss group statements of cash flows  | 3                  |

## Exam guide

A group statement of cash flows could well appear in the case study question in compulsory Section A of the paper as it did in the Pilot Paper.

## 1 Cash flows

### FAST FORWARD

**Statements of cash flows** are a useful addition to the financial statements of companies because it is recognised that accounting profit is not the only indicator of a company's performance.

Statements of cash flows concentrate on the sources and uses of cash and are a useful indicator of a company's **liquidity and solvency**.

Cash flows are much easier to understand as a concept than accounting profits. The main advantages of using cash flow accounting (including both historical and forecast cash flows) are as follows.

- (a) **Survival** of a company depends on its ability to generate cash. Cash flow accounting directs attention towards this critical issue.
- (b) Cash flow is more **comprehensive** than 'profit' which is dependent on accounting conventions and concepts.
- (c) Creditors (long- and short-term) are more interested in an entity's **ability to repay** them than in its profitability. Whereas 'profits' might indicate that cash is likely to be available, cash flow accounting is more direct with its message.
- (d) Cash flow reporting provides a better means of **comparing** the results of different companies than traditional profit reporting.
- (e) Cash flow reporting satisfies the **needs of all users** better.
  - (i) For **management**. It provides the sort of information on which decisions should be taken (in management accounting, 'relevant costs' to a decision are future cash flows). Traditional profit accounting does not help with decision-making.
  - (ii) For **shareholders and auditors**. Cash flow accounting can provide a satisfactory basis for stewardship accounting.
  - (iii) For **creditors and employees**. Their information needs will be better served by cash flow accounting.
- (f) **Cash flow forecasts** are easier to prepare, as well as more useful, than profit forecasts.
- (g) Cash flow accounts can be **audited more easily** than accounts based on the accruals concept.
- (h) The accruals concept is confusing, and cash flows are more **easily understood**.
- (i) Cash flow accounting can be both **retrospective**, and also include a **forecast** for the future. This is of great information value to all users of accounting information.
- (j) Forecasts can subsequently be monitored by the use of **variance statements** which compare actual cash flows against the forecast.

Looking at the same question from a different angle, readers of accounts can be **misled** by the profit figure.

- (a) Shareholders might believe that if a company makes a profit after tax of, say \$100,000 then this is the amount which it could afford to pay as a **dividend**. Unless the company has sufficient cash available to stay in business and also to pay a dividend, the shareholders' expectations would be wrong.
- (b) Employees might believe that if a company makes profits, it can afford to pay **higher wages** next year. This opinion may not be correct: the ability to pay wages depends on the availability of cash.
- (c) Creditors might consider that a profitable company is a **going concern**.
  - (i) If a company builds up large amounts of **unsold inventories** of goods, their cost would not be chargeable against profits, but cash would have been used up in making them, thus weakening the company's liquid resources.
  - (ii) A company might capitalise large **development costs**, having spent considerable amounts of money on R & D, but only charge small amounts against current profits. As a result, the company might show reasonable profits, but get into severe difficulties with its liquidity position.
- (d) Management might suppose that if their company makes a historical cost profit, and reinvests some of those profits, then the company must be **expanding**. This is not the case: in a period of inflation, a company might have a historical cost profit but a current cost accounting loss, which means that the operating capability of the firm will be declining.
- (e) **Survival** of a business entity depends not so much on profits as on its ability to pay its debts when they fall due. Such payments might include 'profit or loss' items such as material purchases, wages, interest and taxation etc, but also capital payments for new non-current assets and the repayment of loan capital when this falls due (eg on the redemption of debentures).

## 2 IAS 7 Statement of cash flows: single company

### FAST FORWARD

You need to be aware of the **format** of the statement as laid out in **IAS 7**. Setting out the format is an essential first stage in preparing the statement, so this format must be learnt.

The aim of IAS 7 is to provide information to users of financial statements about the cash flows of an entity's **ability to generate cash and cash equivalents**, as well as indicating the cash needs of the entity. The statement of cash flows provides *historical* information about cash and cash equivalents, classifying cash flows between operating, investing and financing activities.

### 2.1 Scope

A statement of cash flows should be presented as an **integral part** of an entity's financial statements. All types of entity can provide useful information about cash flows as the need for cash is universal, whatever the nature of their revenue-producing activities. Therefore **all entities are required by the standard to produce a statement of cash flows**.

### 2.2 Benefits of cash flow information

The use of statements of cash flows is very much **in conjunction** with the rest of the financial statements. Users can gain further appreciation of the change in net assets, of the entity's financial position (liquidity and solvency) and the entity's ability to adapt to changing circumstances by affecting the amount and timing of cash flows. Statements of cash flows **enhance comparability** as they are not affected by differing accounting policies used for the same type of transactions or events.

Cash flow information of a historical nature can be used as an indicator of the amount, timing and certainty of future cash flows. Past forecast cash flow information can be **checked for accuracy** as actual figures emerge. The relationship between profit and cash flows can be analysed as can changes in prices over time.

## 2.3 Definitions

The standard gives the following definitions, the most important of which are **cash** and **cash equivalents**.

### Key terms

**Cash** comprises cash on hand and demand deposits.

**Cash equivalents** are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

**Cash flows** are inflows and outflows of cash and cash equivalents.

**Operating activities** are the principal revenue-producing activities of the entity and other activities that are not investing or financing activities.

**Investing activities** are the acquisition and disposal of long-term assets and other investments not included in cash equivalents.

**Financing activities** are activities that result in changes in the size and composition of the equity capital and borrowings of the entity. (IAS 7)

## 2.4 Cash and cash equivalents

The standard expands on the definition of cash equivalents: they are not held for investment or other long-term purposes, but rather to meet short-term cash commitments. To fulfil the above definition, an investment's **maturity date should normally be three months from its acquisition date**. It would usually be the case then that equity investments (ie shares in other companies) are *not* cash equivalents. An exception would be where preferred shares were acquired with a very close maturity date.

**Loans and other borrowings** from banks are classified as investing activities. In some countries, however, **bank overdrafts** are repayable on demand and are treated as part of an entity's total cash management system. In these circumstances an overdrawn balance will be included in cash and cash equivalents. Such banking arrangements are characterised by a balance which fluctuates between overdrawn and credit.

**Movements** between different types of cash and cash equivalent are not included in cash flows. The investment of surplus cash in cash equivalents is part of cash management, not part of operating, investing or financing activities.

## 2.5 Presentation of a statement of cash flows

IAS 7 requires statements of cash flows to report cash flows during the period classified by **operating, investing and financing activities**.

The manner of presentation of cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities **depends on the nature of the entity**. By classifying cash flows between different activities in this way users can see the impact on cash and cash equivalents of each one, and their relationships with each other. We can look at each in more detail.

### 2.5.1 Operating activities

This is perhaps the key part of the statement of cash flows because it shows whether, and to what extent, companies can **generate cash from their operations**. It is these operating cash flows which must, in the end pay for all cash outflows relating to other activities, ie paying loan interest, dividends and so on.

Most of the components of cash flows from operating activities will be those items which **determine the net profit or loss of the entity**, ie they relate to the main revenue-producing activities of the entity. The standard gives the following as examples of cash flows from operating activities.

- Cash receipts from the sale of goods and the rendering of services
- Cash receipts from royalties, fees, commissions and other revenue
- Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services



- Cash payments to and on behalf of employees
- Cash payments/refunds of income taxes unless they can be specifically identified with financing or investing activities
- Cash receipts and payments from contracts held for dealing or trading purposes

Certain items may be included in the net profit or loss for the period which do *not* relate to operational cash flows, for example the profit or loss on the sale of a piece of plant will be included in net profit or loss, but the cash flows will be classed as **financing**.

### 2.5.2 Investing activities

The cash flows classified under this heading show the extent of new investment in **assets which will generate future profit and cash flows**. The standard gives the following examples of cash flows arising from investing activities.

- Cash payments to acquire property, plant and equipment, intangibles and other long-term assets, including those relating to capitalised development costs and self-constructed property, plant and equipment
- Cash receipts from sales of property, plant and equipment, intangibles and other long-term assets
- Cash payments to acquire shares or debentures of other entities
- Cash receipts from sales of shares or debentures of other entities
- Cash advances and loans made to other parties
- Cash receipts from the repayment of advances and loans made to other parties
- Cash payments for or receipts from futures/forward/option/swap contracts except where the contracts are held for dealing purposes, or the payments/receipts are classified as financing activities

### 2.5.3 Financing activities

This section of the statement of cash flows shows the share of cash which the entity's capital providers have claimed during the period. This is an indicator of **likely future interest and dividend payments**. The standard gives the following examples of cash flows which might arise under these headings.

- Cash proceeds from issuing shares
- Cash payments to owners to acquire or redeem the entity's shares
- Cash proceeds from issuing debentures, loans, notes, bonds, mortgages and other short or long-term borrowings
- Cash repayments of amounts borrowed
- Cash payments by a lessee for the reduction of the outstanding liability relating to a finance lease

## 2.6 Reporting cash flows from operating activities

The standard offers a choice of method for this part of the statement of cash flows.

- Direct method:** disclose major classes of gross cash receipts and gross cash payments
- Indirect method:** net profit or loss is adjusted for the effects of transactions of a non-cash nature, any deferrals or accruals of past or future operating cash receipts or payments, and items of income or expense associated with investing or financing cash flows

The **direct method is the preferred method** because it discloses information, not available elsewhere in the financial statements, which could be of use in estimating future cash flows. The example below shows both methods.

## 2.6.1 Using the direct method

There are different ways in which the **information about gross cash receipts and payments** can be obtained. The most obvious way is simply to extract the information from the accounting records. This may be a laborious task, however, and the indirect method below may be easier.

## 2.6.2 Using the indirect method

This method is undoubtedly **easier** from the point of view of the preparer of the statement of cash flows. The net profit or loss for the period is adjusted for the following.

- (a) Changes during the period in inventories, operating receivables and payables
- (b) Non-cash items, eg depreciation, provisions, profits/losses on the sales of assets
- (c) Other items, the cash flows from which should be classified under investing or financing activities.

A **proforma** of such a calculation is as follows and this method may be more common in the exam.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
|   | \$       |
| Profit before taxation (statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income) | X        |
| Add depreciation  | X        |
| Loss (profit) on sale of non-current assets   | X        |
| (Increase)/decrease in inventories  | (X)/X    |
| (Increase)/decrease in receivables  | (X)/X    |
| Increase/(decrease) in payables   | X/(X)    |
| Cash generated from operations  | X        |
| Interest (paid)/received  | (X)      |
| Income taxes paid   | (X)      |
| <i>Net cash flows from operating activities</i>                                     | <u>X</u> |

It is important to understand why **certain items are added and others subtracted**. Note the following points.

- (a) Depreciation is not a cash expense, but is deducted in arriving at the profit figure in the statement of comprehensive income. It makes sense, therefore, to eliminate it by adding it back.
- (b) By the same logic, a loss on a disposal of a non-current asset (arising through underprovision of depreciation) needs to be added back and a profit deducted.
- (c) An increase in inventories means less cash – you have spent cash on buying inventory.
- (d) An increase in receivables means the company's credit customers have not paid as much, and therefore there is less cash.
- (e) If we pay off payables, causing the figure to decrease, again we have less cash.

## 2.6.3 Indirect versus direct

12/10

The direct method is encouraged where the necessary information is not too costly to obtain, but IAS 7 does not require it, and **favours the indirect method**. In practice, therefore, the direct method is rarely used. It is not obvious that IAS 7 is right in favouring the indirect method. It could be argued that companies ought to monitor their cash flows carefully enough on an ongoing basis to be able to use the direct method at minimal extra cost.

### Exam focus point

In December 2010 students were asked to discuss the ethical implications of favouring the indirect method over the direct method.

## 2.7 Interest and dividends

Cash flows from interest and dividends received and paid should each be **disclosed separately**. Each should be classified in a consistent manner from period to period as either operating, investing or financing activities.

Dividends paid by the entity can be classified in **one of two ways**.

- (a) As a **financing cash flow**, showing the cost of obtaining financial resources.
- (b) As a component of **cash flows from operating activities** so that users can assess the entity's ability to pay dividends out of operating cash flows.

## 2.8 Taxes on income

Cash flows arising from taxes on income should be **separately disclosed** and should be classified as cash flows from operating activities *unless* they can be specifically identified with financing and investing activities.

Taxation cash flows are often **difficult to match** to the originating underlying transaction, so most of the time all tax cash flows are classified as arising from operating activities.

## 2.9 Components of cash and cash equivalents

The components of cash and cash equivalents should be disclosed and a **reconciliation** should be presented, showing the amounts in the statement of cash flows reconciled with the equivalent items reported in the statement of financial position.

It is also necessary to disclose the **accounting policy** used in deciding the items included in cash and cash equivalents, in accordance with IAS 1, but also because of the wide range of cash management practices worldwide.

## 2.10 Other disclosures

All entities should disclose, together with a **commentary by management**, any other information likely to be of importance.

- (a) Restrictions on the use of or access to any part of cash equivalents.
- (b) The amount of undrawn borrowing facilities which are available.
- (c) Cash flows which increased operating capacity compared to cash flows which merely maintained operating capacity.

## 2.11 Example of a statement of cash flows

In the next section we will look at the procedures for preparing a statement of cash flows. First, look at this **example**, adapted from the example given in the standard.

### 2.11.1 Direct method

#### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (DIRECT METHOD) YEAR ENDED 20X7

|  | \$m      | \$m   |
|--|----------|-------|
| <i>Cash flows from operating activities</i>  |          |       |
| Cash receipts from customers                 | 30,150   |       |
| Cash paid to suppliers and employees         | (27,600) |       |
| Cash generated from operations               | 2,550    |       |
| Interest paid                                | (270)    |       |
| Income taxes paid                            | (900)    |       |
| <i>Net cash from operating activities</i>    |          | 1,380 |
| <i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>  |          |       |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment    | (900)    |       |
| Proceeds from sale of equipment              | 20       |       |
| Interest received                            | 200      |       |
| Dividends received                           | 200      |       |
| <i>Net cash used in investing activities</i> |          | (480) |

|  | \$m            | \$m               |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| <i>Cash flows from financing activities</i>                    |                |                   |
| Proceeds from issuance of share capital                        | 250            |                   |
| Proceeds from long-term borrowings                             | 250            |                   |
| Payment of finance lease liabilities                           | (90)           |                   |
| Dividends paid*  | <u>(1,200)</u> |                   |
| <i>Net cash used in financing activities</i>                   |                | <u>(790)</u>      |
| <i>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</i>               |                | 110               |
| <i>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period (Note)</i> |                | <u>120</u>        |
| <i>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period (Note)</i>       |                | <u><u>230</u></u> |

\* This could also be shown as an operating cash flow

## 2.11.2 Indirect method

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (INDIRECT METHOD) YEAR ENDED 20X7

|  | \$m            | \$m               |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| <i>Cash flows from operating activities</i>                    |                |                   |
| Profit before taxation   | 3,390          |                   |
| Adjustments for:   |                |                   |
| Depreciation   | 450            |                   |
| Investment income  | (500)          |                   |
| Interest expense   | <u>400</u>     |                   |
|  | 3,740          |                   |
| Increase in trade and other receivables                        | (500)          |                   |
| Decrease in inventories  | 1,050          |                   |
| Decrease in trade payables                                     | <u>(1,740)</u> |                   |
| Cash generated from operations                                 | 2,550          |                   |
| Interest paid  | (270)          |                   |
| Income taxes paid  | <u>(900)</u>   |                   |
| <i>Net cash from operating activities</i>                      |                | 1,380             |
| <i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>                    |                |                   |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment                      | (900)          |                   |
| Proceeds from sale of equipment                                | 20             |                   |
| Interest received  | 200            |                   |
| Dividends received   | <u>200</u>     |                   |
| <i>Net cash used in investing activities</i>                   |                | (480)             |
| <i>Cash flows from financing activities</i>                    |                |                   |
| Proceeds from issue of share capital                           | 250            |                   |
| Proceeds from long-term borrowings                             | 250            |                   |
| Payment of finance lease liabilities                           | (90)           |                   |
| Dividends paid*  | <u>(1,200)</u> |                   |
| <i>Net cash used in financing activities</i>                   |                | <u>(790)</u>      |
| <i>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</i>               |                | 110               |
| <i>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period (Note)</i> |                | <u>120</u>        |
| <i>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period (Note)</i>       |                | <u><u>230</u></u> |

\* This could also be shown as an operating cash flow

|                                      | 20X7       | 20X6       |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|
|                                      | \$m        | \$m        |
| Cash on hand and balances with banks | 40         | 25         |
| Short-term investments               | 190        | 95         |
| Cash and cash equivalents            | <u>230</u> | <u>120</u> |

## 2.12 Section summary

### FAST FORWARD

Remember the **step-by-step preparation procedure** and use it for all the questions you practise.

Remember the steps involved in preparation of a statement of cash flows.

**Step 1** Set out the proforma leaving plenty of space.

**Step 2** Complete the reconciliation of operating profit to net cash from operating activities, as far as possible.

**Step 3** Calculate the following where appropriate.

- Tax paid
- Dividends paid
- Purchase and sale of non-current assets
- Issues of shares
- Repayment of loans

**Step 4** Work out the profit if not already given using: opening and closing balances, tax charge and dividends.

**Step 5** Complete the note of gross cash flows. Alternatively the information may go straight into the statement.

**Step 6** Slot the figures into the statement and any notes required.



### Question

Single company

Kane Co's statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 20X8 and statements of financial position at 31 December 20X7 and 31 December 20X8 were as follows.

KANE CO

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 20X8

|                                     | \$'000    | \$'000     |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Sales                               |           | 720        |
| Raw materials consumed              | 70        |            |
| Staff costs                         | 94        |            |
| Depreciation                        | 118       |            |
| Loss on disposal of long-term asset | <u>18</u> |            |
|                                     |           | <u>300</u> |
|                                     |           | 420        |
| Interest payable                    |           | <u>28</u>  |
| Profit before tax                   |           | 392        |
| Income tax expense                  |           | 124        |
| Profit for the year                 |           | <u>268</u> |

## KANE CO

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER

|                               | 20X8       |              | 20X7       |              |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
|                               | \$'000     | \$'000       | \$'000     | \$'000       |
| <i>Assets</i>                 |            |              |            |              |
| Non-current assets            |            |              |            |              |
| Cost                          | 1,596      |              | 1,560      |              |
| Depreciation                  | <u>318</u> |              | <u>224</u> |              |
|                               |            | 1,278        |            | 1,336        |
| Current assets                |            |              |            |              |
| Inventory                     | 24         |              | 20         |              |
| Trade receivables             | 76         |              | 58         |              |
| Bank                          | <u>48</u>  |              | <u>56</u>  |              |
|                               |            | 148          |            | 134          |
| <i>Total assets</i>           |            | <u>1,426</u> |            | <u>1,470</u> |
| <i>Equity and liabilities</i> |            |              |            |              |
| Equity                        |            |              |            |              |
| Share capital                 | 360        |              | 340        |              |
| Share premium                 | 36         |              | 24         |              |
| Retained earnings             | <u>686</u> |              | <u>490</u> |              |
|                               |            | 1,082        |            | 854          |
| Non-current liabilities       |            |              |            |              |
| Long-term loans               |            | 200          |            | 500          |
| Current liabilities           |            |              |            |              |
| Trade payables                | 42         |              | 30         |              |
| Taxation                      | <u>102</u> |              | <u>86</u>  |              |
|                               |            | 144          |            | 116          |
|                               |            | <u>1,426</u> |            | <u>1,470</u> |

During the year, the company paid \$90,000 for a new piece of machinery.

*Required*

Prepare a statement of cash flows for Kane Co for the year ended 31 December 20X8 in accordance with the requirements of IAS 7, using the indirect method.

**Answer**

## KANE CO

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X8

|  | \$'000       | \$'000 |
|--|--------------|--------|
| <i>Net cash flow from operating activities</i> |              |        |
| Operating profit                               | 420          |        |
| Depreciation charges                           | 118          |        |
| Loss on sale of tangible non-current assets    | 18           |        |
| Increase in inventories                        | (4)          |        |
| Increase in receivables                        | (18)         |        |
| Increase in payables                           | <u>12</u>    |        |
| Cash generated from operations                 | 546          |        |
| Interest paid                                  | (28)         |        |
| Dividends paid (268 + 490 – 686)               | (72)         |        |
| Tax paid (86 + 124 – 102)                      | <u>(108)</u> |        |
| <i>Net cash flow from operating activities</i> |              | 338    |

|  |                          |                     |              |                     |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|
|  |                          |                     | \$'000       | \$'000              |
| <i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>            |                          |                     |              |                     |
| Payments to acquire tangible non-current assets        |                          |                     | (90)         |                     |
| Receipts from sales of tangible non-current assets (W) |                          |                     | <u>12</u>    |                     |
| <i>Net cash outflow from investing activities</i>      |                          |                     |              | (78)                |
| <i>Cash flows from financing activities</i>            |                          |                     |              |                     |
| Issues of share capital (360 + 36 – 340 – 24)          |                          |                     | 32           |                     |
| Long-term loans repaid (500 – 200)                     |                          |                     | <u>(300)</u> |                     |
| <i>Net cash flows from financing</i>                   |                          |                     |              | (268)               |
| Decrease in cash and cash equivalents                  |                          |                     |              | (8)                 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 1.1.X8                    |                          |                     |              | <u>56</u>           |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31.12.X8                  |                          |                     |              | <u><u>48</u></u>    |
| <i>Working: non-current asset disposals</i>            |                          |                     |              |                     |
|  | COST                     |                     |              |                     |
|  | \$'000                   |                     |              | \$'000              |
| At 1.1.X8  | 1,560                    | At 31.12.X8         |              | 1,596               |
| Purchases  | <u>90</u>                | Disposals (balance) |              | <u>54</u>           |
|  | <u>1,650</u>             |                     |              | <u><u>1,650</u></u> |
|  | ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION |                     |              |                     |
|  | \$'000                   |                     |              | \$'000              |
| At 31.1.X8   | 318                      | At 1.1.X8           |              | 224                 |
| Depreciation on disposals (balance)                    | <u>24</u>                | Charge for year     |              | <u>118</u>          |
|  | <u>342</u>               |                     |              | <u><u>342</u></u>   |
| NBV of disposals                                       |                          |                     |              | 30                  |
| Net loss reported                                      |                          |                     |              | (18)                |
| Proceeds of disposals                                  |                          |                     |              | <u>12</u>           |

## 3 Consolidated statements of cash flows

Pilot paper, 12/08, 12/10

### FAST FORWARD

**Consolidated cash flows** should not present a great problem if you understand how to deal with acquisitions and disposals of subsidiaries, non-controlling interest and dividends.

Consolidated statements of cash flows follow the same principles as for single company statements, with some additional complications.

Cash flows that are **internal to the group** should be eliminated in the preparation of a consolidated statement of cash flows. Where a subsidiary undertaking **joins or leaves** a group during a financial year the cash flows of the group should include the cash flows of the subsidiary undertaking concerned for the same period as that for which the group's statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income includes the results of the subsidiary undertaking.

### 3.1 Acquisitions and disposals of subsidiaries and other business units

An entity should present separately the aggregate cash flows arising from acquisitions and from disposals of subsidiaries or other business units and classify them as **investing activities**.

**Disclosure** is required of the following, in aggregate, in respect of both acquisitions and disposals of subsidiaries or other business units during the period.

- Total purchase/disposal consideration
- Portion of purchase/disposal consideration discharged by means of cash/cash equivalents
- Amount of cash/cash equivalents in the subsidiary or business unit disposed of
- Amount of assets and liabilities other than cash/cash equivalents in the subsidiary or business unit acquired or disposed of, summarised by major category

The amounts shown in the statements of cash flows for purchase or disposal of subsidiaries or business units will be the amounts paid or received **net** of cash/cash equivalents acquired or disposed of.

## 3.2 Consolidation adjustments and non-controlling interest

The group statement of cash flows should only deal with flows of cash and cash equivalents external to the group, so all intra-group cash flows should be eliminated. **Dividends paid to non-controlling interest** should be included under the heading 'cash flow from financing' and disclosed separately.

## 3.3 Example: Non-controlling interest

The following are extracts of the consolidated results for Jarvis Co for the year ended 31 December 20X8.

| CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (EXTRACT) |  | \$'000    |
|---|--|-----------|
| Group profit before tax   |  | 90        |
| Income tax expense  |  | (30)      |
| Profit for the year   |  | <u>60</u> |
| Profit attributable to:   |  |           |
| Owners of the parent  |  | 45        |
| Non-controlling interest  |  | <u>15</u> |
|   |  | <u>60</u> |

| CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (EXTRACT) |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
|  | 20X1       | 20X2       |
|  | \$'000     | \$'000     |
| Non-controlling interest                               | <u>300</u> | <u>306</u> |

Calculate the dividends paid to the non-controlling interest during the year

## Solution

The non-controlling interest share of profit after tax represents retained profit plus dividends paid.

| NON-CONTROLLING INTEREST |            |                         |            |
|--------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
|                          | \$'000     |                         | \$'000     |
| Dividend paid            | 9          | Balance b/fwd           | 300        |
| Balance c/fwd            | <u>306</u> | Profit for period (P/L) | <u>15</u>  |
|                          | <u>315</u> |                         | <u>315</u> |

## 3.4 Associates and joint ventures

An entity which reports its such an interest in an associate or a joint venture using the equity method includes in its statement of cash flows the cash flows in respect of its investments in the jointly controlled entity associate or joint venture, and distributions and other payments or receipts between it and the jointly controlled entity associate or joint venture.

Dividends should be included in **operating or investing cash flows**.



### 3.5 Example: Associate

The following are extracts of the consolidated results of Pripon Co for the year ended 31 December 20X8.

| CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (EXTRACT) |  | \$'000     |
|---|--|------------|
| Group profit before tax   |  | 150        |
| Share of associate's profit after tax (60 – 30)                                   |  | <u>30</u>  |
|   |  | 180        |
| Tax (group)   |  | <u>75</u>  |
|   |  | <u>105</u> |
| Profit after tax  |  |            |

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (EXTRACTS)

|                         | 20X1       | 20X2       |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
|                         | \$'000     | \$'000     |
| Investment in associate | <u>264</u> | <u>276</u> |

Calculate the dividend received from the associate.

### Solution

The associate profit before tax represents retained profit plus dividend plus tax.

| ASSOCIATE                  |            |                         |            |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
|                            | \$'000     |                         | \$'000     |
| Balance b/fwd              | 264        | Dividend from associate | 18         |
| Profit after tax (60 – 30) | <u>30</u>  | Balance c/fwd           | <u>276</u> |
|                            | <u>294</u> |                         | <u>294</u> |

### 3.6 Finance lease transactions

When rentals under a finance lease are paid the **capital and interest elements are split out** and included under the 'financing' and 'servicing of finance' headings respectively.

#### Exam focus point

Various complications may arise in a consolidated statement of cash flows in the exam, the most important of which are covered above. The question, given below, is comprehensive. You may also have a written element. The Pilot Paper asked for the preparation of a consolidated statement of cash flows and a report on the usefulness of group statements of cash flows, generally and specifically to the entity in the question. In December 2010 students were asked whether it was acceptable for the proceeds of a loan to be classified as operating cash flow.

### 3.7 Section summary

The preparation of consolidated statements of cash flows will, in many respects, be the same as those for single companies, with the following **additional complications**.

- Acquisitions and disposals of subsidiary undertaking
- Cancellation of intra-group transactions
- Non-controlling interest
- Associates and joint ventures
- Finance leases



## Question

## Consolidated cash flow 1

Topiary Co is a 40 year old company producing garden statues carved from marble. 22 years ago it acquired a 100% interest in a marble importing company, Hardstuff Co. In 20W9 it acquired a 40% interest in a competitor, Landscapes Co and on 1 January 20X7 it acquired a 75% interest in Garden Furniture Designs. The draft consolidated accounts for the Topiary Group are as follows.

### DRAFT CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X7

|  | \$'000 | \$'000  |
|--|--------|---------|
| Operating profit                       |        | 4,455   |
| Share of profit after tax of associate |        | 1,050   |
| Income from long-term investment       |        | 600     |
| Interest payable                       |        | (450)   |
| Profit before taxation                 |        | 5,655   |
| Tax on profit                          |        |         |
| Income tax                             | 1,173  |         |
| Deferred taxation                      | 312    |         |
| Tax attributable to investment income  | 135    |         |
|  |        | (1,620) |
| Profit for the year                    |        | 4,035   |
| Non-controlling interest               |        |         |
| Attribute to: owners of the parent     |        | 3,735   |
| non-controlling interest               |        | 300     |
|  |        | 4,035   |

### DRAFT CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER

|                               | 20X6    |        | 20X7    |        |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
|                               | \$'000  | \$'000 | \$'000  | \$'000 |
| <b>Assets</b>                 |         |        |         |        |
| Non-current assets            |         |        |         |        |
| Tangible assets               |         |        |         |        |
| Buildings at net book value   |         | 6,600  |         | 6,225  |
| Machinery: cost               | 4,200   |        | 9,000   |        |
| aggregate depreciation        | (3,300) |        | (3,600) |        |
| net book value                |         | 900    |         | 5,400  |
|                               |         | 7,500  |         | 11,625 |
| Goodwill                      |         |        |         | 300    |
| Investments in associates     |         | 3,000  |         | 3,300  |
| Long-term investments         |         | 1,230  |         | 1,230  |
|                               |         | 11,730 |         | 16,455 |
| Current assets                |         |        |         |        |
| Inventories                   | 3,000   |        | 5,925   |        |
| Receivables                   | 3,825   |        | 5,550   |        |
| Cash                          | 5,460   |        | 13,545  |        |
|                               |         | 12,285 |         | 25,020 |
|                               |         | 24,015 |         | 41,475 |
| <b>Equity and liabilities</b> |         |        |         |        |
| Equity                        |         |        |         |        |
| Share capital: 25c shares     | 6,000   |        | 11,820  |        |
| Share premium account         | 6,285   |        | 8,649   |        |
| Retained earnings             | 7,500   |        | 10,335  |        |
| Total equity                  | 19,785  |        | 30,804  |        |
| Non-controlling interest      | —       |        | 345     |        |
|                               |         | 19,785 |         | 31,149 |

|                                      | 20X6      |               | 20X7       |               |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|------------|---------------|
|                                      | \$'000    | \$'000        | \$'000     | \$'000        |
| Non-current liabilities              |           |               |            |               |
| Obligations under finance leases     | 510       |               | 2,130      |               |
| Loans                                | 1,500     |               | 4,380      |               |
| Deferred tax                         | <u>39</u> |               | <u>90</u>  |               |
|                                      |           | 2,049         |            | 6,600         |
| Current liabilities                  |           |               |            |               |
| Trade payables                       | 840       |               | 1,500      |               |
| Obligations under finance leases     | 600       |               | 720        |               |
| Income tax                           | 651       |               | 1,386      |               |
| Accrued interest and finance charges | <u>90</u> |               | <u>120</u> |               |
|                                      |           | 2,181         |            | 3,726         |
|                                      |           | <u>24,015</u> |            | <u>41,475</u> |

#### Note

- There had been no acquisitions or disposals of buildings during the year.  
Machinery costing \$1.5m was sold for \$1.5m resulting in a profit of \$300,000. New machinery was acquired in 20X7 including additions of \$2.55m acquired under finance leases.
- Information relating to the acquisition of Garden Furniture Designs*  

|   |            |
|---|------------|
|   | \$'000     |
| Machinery                                     | 495        |
| Inventories                                   | 96         |
| Trade receivables                             | 84         |
| Cash  | 336        |
| Trade payables                                | (204)      |
| Income tax                                    | (51)       |
|   | <u>756</u> |
| Non-controlling interest                      | (189)      |
|   | <u>567</u> |
| Goodwill                                      | <u>300</u> |
|   | <u>867</u> |
| 2,640,000 shares issued as part consideration | 825        |
| Balance of consideration paid in cash         | <u>42</u>  |
|   | <u>867</u> |
- Loans were issued at a discount in 20X7 and the carrying amount of the loans at 31 December 20X7 included \$120,000 representing the finance cost attributable to the discount and allocated in respect of the current reporting period.

#### Required

Prepare a consolidated statement of cash flows for the Topiary Group for the year ended 31 December 20X7 as required by IAS 7, using the indirect method. There is no need to provide notes to the statement of cash flows.

TOPIARY CO  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X7

|  | \$'000  | \$'000        |
|--|---------|---------------|
| <i>Cash flows from operating activities</i>                  |         |               |
| Net profit before tax  | 5,655   |               |
| Adjustments for:   |         |               |
| Depreciation (W1)  | 975     |               |
| Profit on sale of plant                                      | (300)   |               |
| Share of associate's profits                                 | (1,050) |               |
| Investment income  | (600)   |               |
| Interest payable   | 450     |               |
| Operating profit before working capital changes              | 5,130   |               |
| Increase in trade and other receivables (5,550 – 3,825 – 84) | (1,641) |               |
| Increase in inventories (5,925 – 3,000 – 96)                 | (2,829) |               |
| Increase in trade payables (1,500 – 840 – 204)               | 456     |               |
| Cash generated from operations                               | 1,116   |               |
| Interest paid (W2)   | (300)   |               |
| Income taxes paid (W3)                                       | (750)   |               |
| <i>Net cash from operating activities</i>                    |         | 66            |
| <i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>                  |         |               |
| Purchase of subsidiary undertaking (W4)                      | 294     |               |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment (W5)               | (3,255) |               |
| Proceeds from sale of plant                                  | 1,500   |               |
| Dividends from investment (600 – 135)                        | 465     |               |
| Dividends from associate (W6)                                | 750     |               |
| Dividends paid to non-controlling interest (W7)              | (144)   |               |
| <i>Net cash used in investing activities</i>                 |         | (390)         |
| <i>Cash flows from financing activities</i>                  |         |               |
| Issue of ordinary share capital (W8)                         | 7,359   |               |
| Issue of loan notes (W9)                                     | 2,760   |               |
| Capital payments under finance leases (W10)                  | (810)   |               |
| Dividends paid (3,735 + 7,500 – 10,335)                      | (900)   |               |
| <i>Net cash flows from financing activities</i>              |         | 8,409         |
| <i>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</i>             |         | 8,085         |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 1.1.X7                          |         | 5,460         |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31.12.X7                        |         | <u>13,545</u> |

*Workings*

1 *Depreciation charges*

|                 | PLANT AND EQUIPMENT |                          |              |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
|                 | \$'000              |                          | \$'000       |
| Balance b/fwd   | 3,300               | Depreciation on disposal | 300          |
| Charge for year | 600                 | Balance c/fwd            | 3,600        |
|                 | <u>3,900</u>        |                          | <u>3,900</u> |

Freehold buildings (\$6,600,000 – \$6,225,000) = \$375,000

Total charge: (\$375,000 + \$600,000) = \$975,000

2 *Interest*

| INTEREST PAYABLE       |            |                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
|                        | \$'000     |                        | \$'000     |
| Discount               | 120        | Accrued interest b/fwd | 90         |
| Interest paid          | 300        |                        |            |
| Accrued interest c/fwd | 120        | Expenses               | 450        |
|                        | <u>540</u> |                        | <u>540</u> |

3 *Taxation*

| INCOME TAX PAYABLE |              |                   |              |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
|                    | \$'000       |                   | \$'000       |
|                    |              | B/d – current tax | 651          |
|                    |              | – deferred tax    | 39           |
| ∴ Cash outflow     | 750          | P/L transfer      |              |
|                    |              | (1,173 + 312)     | 1,485        |
| C/d – current tax  | 1,386        | On acquisition    | 51           |
| – deferred tax     | 90           |                   |              |
|                    | <u>2,226</u> |                   | <u>2,226</u> |

4 *Purchase of subsidiary*

|                              | \$'000     |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Cash received on acquisition | 336        |
| Less cash consideration      | (42)       |
| Cash inflow                  | <u>294</u> |

5 *Purchase of property, plant and equipment; machinery*

| MACHINERY        |               |          |               |
|------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|
|                  | \$'000        |          | \$'000        |
| B/fwd            | 4,200         |          |               |
| On acquisition   | 495           | Disposal | 1,500         |
| Leased           | 2,550         |          |               |
| ∴ Cash additions | 3,255         | C/fwd    | 9,000         |
|                  | <u>10,500</u> |          | <u>10,500</u> |

6 *Dividends from associate*

| INVESTMENT IN ASSOCIATE   |              |                      |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
|                           | \$'000       |                      | \$'000       |
| B/fwd                     | 3,000        | ∴ Dividends received | 750          |
| Share of profit after tax | 1,050        | C/fwd                | 3,300        |
|                           | <u>4,050</u> |                      | <u>4,050</u> |

7 *Non-controlling interest*

| NON-CONTROLLING INTEREST |            |                 |            |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
|                          | \$'000     |                 | \$'000     |
| Dividend paid            | 144        | Balance b/fwd   | Nil        |
| Balance c/fwd            | 345        | Profit for year | 300        |
|                          |            | On acquisition  | 189        |
|                          | <u>489</u> |                 | <u>489</u> |

8 *Issue of ordinary share capital*

| SHARE CAPITAL |               |                        |               |
|---------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
|               | \$'000        |                        | \$'000        |
|               |               | B/fwd                  |               |
|               |               | Shares                 | 6,000         |
|               |               | Premium                | 6,285         |
|               |               | Non-cash consideration |               |
| C/fwd         |               | Shares                 | 600           |
| Shares        | 11,820        | Premium                | 165           |
| Premium       | 8,649         | Cash inflow            | 7,359         |
|               | <u>20,469</u> |                        | <u>20,469</u> |

9 *Issue of loan notes*

| LOAN NOTES    |              |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|               | \$'000       |               | \$'000       |
| Balance b/fwd | 1,500        |               |              |
| Finance cost  | 120          |               |              |
| Cash inflow   | 2,760        | Balance c/fwd | 4,380        |
|               | <u>4,380</u> |               | <u>4,380</u> |

10 *Capital payments under finance leases*

| FINANCE LEASES |              |                      |              |
|----------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
|                | \$'000       |                      | \$'000       |
|                |              | B/fwd                |              |
| Cash outflow   | 810          | Current              | 600          |
| C/fwd          |              | Long-term            | 510          |
| Current        | 720          | New lease commitment | 2,550        |
| Long-term      | 2,130        |                      |              |
|                | <u>3,660</u> |                      | <u>3,660</u> |



## Question

## Consolidated cash flow 2

The following are extracts from the financial statements of Tastydesserts and one of its wholly owned subsidiaries, Custardpowders, the shares in which were acquired on 31 October 20X2.

### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

|                             | <i>Tastydesserts<br/>and subsidiaries</i> |                             | <i>Custardpowders</i>      |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                             | <i>31 December<br/>20X2</i>               | <i>31 December<br/>20X1</i> | <i>31 October<br/>20X2</i> |
|                             | \$'000                                    | \$'000                      | \$'000                     |
| <i>Non-current assets</i>   |   |                             |                            |
| Property, plant & equipment | 4,764                                     | 3,685                       | 694                        |
| Goodwill                    | 42  |                             |                            |
| Investment in associates    | 2,195                                     | 2,175                       | —                          |
|                             | <u>7,001</u>                              | <u>5,860</u>                | <u>694</u>                 |
| <i>Current assets</i>       |   |                             |                            |
| Inventories                 | 1,735                                     | 1,388                       | 306                        |
| Receivables                 | 2,658                                     | 2,436                       | 185                        |
| Bank balances and cash      | 43  | 77                          | 7                          |
|                             | <u>4,436</u>                              | <u>3,901</u>                | <u>498</u>                 |
|                             | <u>11,437</u>                             | <u>9,761</u>                | <u>1,192</u>               |

|                                | <i>Tastydesserts<br/>and subsidiaries</i> |                             | <i>Custardpowders</i>      |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                | <i>31 December<br/>20X2</i>               | <i>31 December<br/>20X1</i> | <i>31 October<br/>20X2</i> |
|                                | <i>\$'000</i>                             | <i>\$'000</i>               | <i>\$'000</i>              |
| <i>Equity</i>                  |   |                             |                            |
| Share capital                  | 4,896                                     | 4,776                       | 400                        |
| Share premium                  | 216                                       |                             |                            |
| Retained earnings              | <u>2,540</u>                              | <u>2,063</u>                | <u>644</u>                 |
|                                | <u>7,652</u>                              | <u>6,839</u>                | <u>1,044</u>               |
| <i>Non-current liabilities</i> |   |                             |                            |
| Loans                          | 1,348                                     | 653                         | –                          |
| Deferred tax                   | <u>111</u>                                | <u>180</u>                  | <u>–</u>                   |
|                                | <u>1,459</u>                              | <u>833</u>                  | <u>–</u>                   |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>     |   |                             |                            |
| Payables                       | 1,915                                     | 1,546                       | 148                        |
| Bank overdrafts                | 176                                       | 343                         |                            |
| Current tax payable            | <u>235</u>                                | <u>200</u>                  | <u>–</u>                   |
|                                | <u>2,326</u>                              | <u>2,089</u>                | <u>148</u>                 |
|                                | <u>11,437</u>                             | <u>9,761</u>                | <u>1,192</u>               |

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X2

|  | <i>\$'000</i> |
|--|---------------|
| Profit before interest and tax                 | 546           |
| Finance costs                                  |               |
| Share of profit of associates                  | <u>120</u>    |
| Profit before tax                              | <u>666</u>    |
| Income tax expense                             | <u>126</u>    |
| PROFIT/TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR | <u>540</u>    |
| Attributable to:                               |               |
| Owners of the parent                           | 540           |
| Non-controlling interests                      | <u>0</u>      |
|  | <u>540</u>    |

The following information is also given:

- The consolidated figures at 31 December 20X2 include Custardpowders.
- The amount of depreciation on property, plant and equipment during the year was \$78,000. There were no disposals.
- The cost on 31 October 20X2 of the shares in Custardpowders was \$1,086,000 comprising the issue of \$695,000 unsecured loan stock at par, 120,000 ordinary shares of \$1 each at a value of 280c and \$55,000 in cash.
- No write down of goodwill was required during the period.
- Total dividends paid by Tastydesserts (parent) during the period amounted to \$63,000.

*Required*

Prepare a statement of cash flows for Tastydesserts and subsidiaries for the year ended 31 December 20X2 using the indirect method.

Notes to the statement of cash flows are not required.

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X2

|  | \$'000       | \$'000              |
|--|--------------|---------------------|
| <i>Cash flows from operating activities</i>                            |              |                     |
| Profit before taxation   | 666          |                     |
| Adjustments for:   |              |                     |
| Depreciation   | 78           |                     |
| Share of profit of associates  | (120)        |                     |
| Interest expense   | —            |                     |
|  | <u>624</u>   |                     |
| Increase in receivables (2,658 – 2,436 – 185)                          | (37)         |                     |
| Increase in inventories (1,735 – 1,388 – 306)                          | (41)         |                     |
| Increase in payables (1,915 – 1,546 – 148)                             | <u>221</u>   |                     |
| Cash generated from operations   | <u>767</u>   |                     |
| Interest paid  | —            |                     |
| Income taxes paid (W5)   | <u>(160)</u> |                     |
| <i>Net cash from operating activities</i>                              |              | 607                 |
| <i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>                            |              |                     |
| Acquisition of subsidiary Custardpowders net of cash acquired (55 – 7) | (48)         |                     |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment (W1)                         | (463)        |                     |
| Dividends received from associates (W3)                                | <u>100</u>   |                     |
| <i>Net cash used in investing activities</i>                           |              | (411)               |
| <i>Cash flows from financing activities</i>                            |              |                     |
| Dividends paid   | <u>(63)</u>  |                     |
| <i>Net cash used in financing activities</i>                           |              | <u>(63)</u>         |
| <i>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</i>                       |              | 133                 |
| <i>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year</i>                  |              | <u>(266)</u>        |
| <i>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</i>                        |              | <u><u>(133)</u></u> |

## Workings

## 1 Purchase of property, plant and equipment

## PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

|                               | \$'000              |              | \$'000              |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| b/d                           | 3,685               |              |                     |
| Acquisition of Custardpowders | 694                 | Depreciation | 78                  |
| ∴ Cash additions              | <u>463</u>          | c/d          | <u>4,764</u>        |
|                               | <u><u>4,842</u></u> |              | <u><u>4,842</u></u> |

## 2 Goodwill

## GOODWILL

|   | \$'000    |                     | \$'000           |
|---|-----------|---------------------|------------------|
| b/d   | —         |                     |                  |
| Acquisition of Custardpowders<br>(1,086 – (1,044 × 100%)) | 42        | ∴ Impairment losses | 0                |
|   | <u>42</u> | c/d                 | <u>42</u>        |
|   |           |                     | <u><u>42</u></u> |



3 *Dividends received from associates*

INVESTMENT IN ASSOCIATE

|                 |              |                      |              |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
|                 | \$'000       |                      | \$'000       |
| b/d             | 2,175        |                      |              |
| Share of profit | 120          | ∴ Dividends received | 100          |
|                 |              | c/d                  | 2,195        |
|                 | <u>2,295</u> |                      | <u>2,295</u> |

4 *Reconciliation of share capital*

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
|  | \$'000       |
| Share capital plus premium b/d               | 4,776        |
| Issued to acquire sub (120,000 × \$2.80)     | 336          |
| Share capital plus premium c/d (4,896 + 216) | <u>5,112</u> |

∴ no shares have been issued for cash during the year.

5 *Income taxes paid*

INCOME TAX PAYABLE

|                   |            |     |                |
|-------------------|------------|-----|----------------|
|                   | \$'000     |     | \$'000         |
|                   |            | b/d | – current tax  |
|                   |            |     | 200            |
|                   |            |     | – deferred tax |
|                   |            |     | 180            |
| ∴ Cash paid       | 160        | P/L | 126            |
| c/d – current tax | 235        |     |                |
| – deferred tax    | 111        |     |                |
|                   | <u>506</u> |     | <u>506</u>     |

## Chapter Roundup

- **Statements of cash flows** are a useful addition to the financial statements of companies because it is recognised that accounting profit is not the only indicator of a company's performance.
- Statements of cash flows concentrate on the sources and uses of cash and are a useful indicator of a company's **liquidity and solvency**.
- You need to be aware of the **format** of the statement as laid out in **IAS 7**. Setting out the format is an essential first stage in preparing the statement, so this format must be learnt.
- Remember the **step-by-step preparation procedure** and use it for all the questions you practise.
- **Consolidated cash flows** should not present a great problem if you understand how to deal with acquisitions and disposals of subsidiaries, non-controlling interest and dividends.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 What is the objective of IAS 7?
- 2 What are the benefits of cash flow information according to IAS 7?
- 3 What are the standard headings required by IAS 7 to be included in a statement of cash flows?
- 4 What is the 'indirect method' of preparing a statement of cash flows?
- 5 How should an acquisition or disposal of a subsidiary be shown in the statement of cash flows?

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 To provide users of financial statements with information about the entity's ability to generate cash and cash equivalents, and the entity's cash needs
- 2 See Paragraph 2.2
- 3 Operating, investing and financing activities.
- 4 The net profit or loss for the period is adjusted for non-cash items; changes in inventories, receivables and payables from operations; and other items resulting from investing or financing activities.
- 5 Cash flows from acquisitions and disposal are disclosed separately under investing activities.

Now try the question below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level       | Marks | Time    |
|--------|-------------|-------|---------|
| Q21    | Examination | 25    | 45 mins |

# Performance reporting



# 18

## Performance reporting

| Topic list   | Syllabus reference |
|--|--------------------|
| 1 Reporting financial performance                                  | C4                 |
| 2 Segment reporting  | C4                 |
| 3 IAS 33 Earnings per share  | C4                 |
| 4 IAS 34 Interim financial reporting                               | C4                 |
| 5 Ratio analysis   | G2                 |
| 6 Impact of changes in accounting standards and policies           | F2                 |
| 7 Accounting theory and practice                                   | B2                 |
| 8 Management commentary – a global Operating and Financial Review? | F2                 |

### Introduction

This chapter covers a great many standards, but you are very familiar with some of them. **IAS 1** was revised in 2007 and again in 2011.

Note that **IFRS 8** *Operating segments* is also a recent standard.

**Earnings per share** is important: it is used internationally as a comparative performance figure.

Ratio analysis at P2 is likely to come up in the category of changing accounting policies.

## Study guide

|           |   | Intellectual level |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| <b>C1</b> | <b>Performance reporting</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Prepare reports relating to corporate performance for external stakeholders   | 3                  |
| <b>C5</b> | <b>Segment reporting</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Determine business and geographical segments and reportable segments  | 3                  |
| (b)       | Specify and discuss the nature of information to be disclosed   |                    |
| <b>G2</b> | <b>Analysis and interpretation of financial information and measurement of performance</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Select and calculate relevant indicators of financial and non-financial performance   | 3                  |
| (b)       | Identify and evaluate significant features and issues in financial statements   | 3                  |
| (c)       | Highlight inconsistencies in financial information through analysis and application of knowledge  | 3                  |
| (d)       | Make inferences from the analysis of the information, taking into account the limitation of the information, the analytical methods used and the business environment in which the entity operates. | 3                  |
| <b>F1</b> | <b>The effect of changes in accounting standards on accounting systems</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Apply and discuss the accounting implications of the first time adoption of a body of new accounting standards  | 3                  |
| <b>F2</b> | <b>Proposed changes to accounting standards</b>   |                    |
| (a)       | Identify the issues and deficiencies which have led to a proposed change to an accounting standard  | 2                  |
| <b>B2</b> | <b>Critical evaluation of principles and practices</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Identify the relationship between accounting theory and practice  | 2                  |
| (b)       | Critically evaluate accounting principles and practices used in corporate reporting   | 3                  |

## Exam guide

EPS is covered at an earlier level, so the details are not covered here. However, you may need to know how the earnings figure can be manipulated.

### 1 Reporting financial performance

6/11

#### FAST FORWARD

Go back to your earlier studies and revise **IAS 1** and **IAS 8**. **IAS 1** was revised in 2007 and 2011. The changes and new formats are given in this section.

#### 1.1 Revision of IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements

#### Exam focus point

You have studied IAS 1 at F7, and will be aware that the standard was revised in 2007. The current formats are given. Elsewhere in this Study Text, the current terminology and formats are used where appropriate. We also cover the revisions to IAS 1 made in June 2011.

### 1.1.1 Format of statement of financial position and statement of changes in equity

Below are current IAS 1 formats for the statement of financial position and statement of changes in equity.

#### XYZ GROUP – STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 DECEMBER

|   | 20X7             | 20X6             |
|---|------------------|------------------|
|   | \$'000           | \$'000           |
| <b>Assets</b>                               |                  |                  |
| Non-current assets                          |                  |                  |
| Property, plant and equipment               | 350,700          | 360,020          |
| Goodwill                                    | 80,800           | 91,200           |
| Other intangible assets                     | 227,470          | 227,470          |
| Investments in associates                   | 100,150          | 110,770          |
| Investments in equity instruments           | 142,500          | 156,000          |
|   | <u>901,620</u>   | <u>945,460</u>   |
| Current assets                              |                  |                  |
| Inventories                                 | 135,230          | 132,500          |
| Trade receivables                           | 91,600           | 110,800          |
| Other current assets                        | 25,650           | 12,540           |
| Cash and cash equivalents                   | 312,400          | 322,900          |
|   | <u>564,880</u>   | <u>578,740</u>   |
| <b>Total assets</b>                         | <u>1,466,500</u> | <u>1,524,200</u> |
| <br><b>Equity and liabilities</b>           |                  |                  |
| Equity attributable to owners of the parent |                  |                  |
| Share capital                               | 650,000          | 600,000          |
| Retained earnings                           | 243,500          | 161,700          |
| Other components of equity                  | 10,200           | 21,200           |
|   | <u>903,700</u>   | <u>782,900</u>   |
| Non-controlling interest*                   | 70,050           | 48,600           |
| <b>Total equity</b>                         | <u>973,750</u>   | <u>831,500</u>   |
| Non-current liabilities                     |                  |                  |
| Long-term borrowings                        | 120,000          | 160,000          |
| Deferred tax                                | 28,800           | 26,040           |
| Long-term provisions                        | 28,850           | 52,240           |
| <b>Total non-current liabilities</b>        | <u>177,650</u>   | <u>238,280</u>   |
| Current liabilities                         |                  |                  |
| Trade and other payables                    | 115,100          | 187,620          |
| Short-term borrowings                       | 150,000          | 200,000          |
| Current portion of long-term borrowings     | 10,000           | 20,000           |
| Current tax payable                         | 35,000           | 42,000           |
| Short-term provisions                       | 5,000            | 4,800            |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>            | <u>315,100</u>   | <u>454,420</u>   |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>                    | <u>492,750</u>   | <u>692,700</u>   |
| <b>Total equity and liabilities</b>         | <u>1,466,500</u> | <u>1,524,200</u> |

\*Non-controlling interest is the new name for minority interest. The name was changed in IFRS 3, which was issued after IAS 1 revised.

## XYZ GROUP – STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X7

|  | Share<br>capital  | Retained<br>earnings | Translation<br>of foreign<br>operations | Available<br>for-sale<br>financial<br>assets | Cash<br>flow<br>hedges | Revaluation<br>surplus | Total             | NCI              | Total<br>equity   |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|---|--|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Balance at<br/>1 January 20X6</b>             | \$'000<br>600,000 | \$'000<br>118,100    | \$'000<br>(4,000)                       | \$'000<br>1,600                              | \$'000<br>2,000        | \$'000<br>–            | \$'000<br>717,700 | \$'000<br>29,800 | \$'000<br>747,500 |
| Changes in<br>accounting<br>policy               | –                 | 400                  | –                                       | –  | –                      | –                      | 400               | 100              | 500               |
| Restated<br>balance                              | 600,000           | 118,500              | (4,000)                                 | 1,600  | 2,000                  | –                      | 718,100           | 29,900           | 748,000           |
| <b>Changes<br/>in equity<br/>for 20X6</b>        |                   |                      |   |  |                        |                        |                   |                  |                   |
| Dividends  | –                 | (10,000)             | –                                       | –  | –                      | –                      | (10,000)          | –                | (10,000)          |
| Total<br>comprehensive<br>income for the<br>year | –                 | 53,200               | 6,400                                   | 16,000                                       | (2,400)                | 1,600                  | 74,800            | 18,700           | 93,500            |
| <b>Balance at<br/>31 December<br/>20X6</b>       | 600,000           | 161,700              | 2,400                                   | 17,600                                       | (400)                  | 1,600                  | 782,900           | 48,600           | 831,500           |
| <b>Changes in<br/>equity for<br/>20X7</b>        |                   |                      |   |  |                        |                        |                   |                  |                   |
| Issue of share<br>capital                        | 50,000            | –                    | –                                       | –  | –                      | –                      | 50,000            | –                | 50,000            |
| Dividends  | –                 | (15,000)             | –                                       | –  | –                      | –                      | (15,000)          | –                | (15,000)          |
| Total<br>comprehensive<br>income for the<br>year | –                 | 96,600               | 3,200                                   | (14,400)                                     | (400)                  | 800                    | 85,800            | 21,450           | 107,250           |
| Transfer to<br>retained<br>earnings              | –                 | 200                  | –                                       | –  | –                      | (200)                  | –                 | –                | –                 |
| <b>Balance at<br/>31 December<br/>20X7</b>       | 650,000           | 243,500              | 5,600                                   | 3,200  | (800)                  | 2,200                  | 903,700           | 70,050           | 973,750           |



One of the competences you need to fulfil Objective 11 of the Practical Experience Requirement (PER) is to draw valid conclusions from the information contained within financial statements or financial data. You can apply the knowledge you obtain from this chapter, on performance reporting, to demonstrate this competence.

**Exam focus  
point**

IAS 1 is very straightforward, but it is important. If necessary, go back to your previous study material. In particular you need to be aware of the **current/non-current distinction**, which is not discussed above. You should also be aware of the recent revisions to IAS 1.



## 1.2 Amendment: Presentation of items of other comprehensive income

In June 2011, an amendment was issued to IAS 1 to improve the presentation of items of other comprehensive income.

In June 2011, the IASB published an amendment to IAS 1 called *Presentation of items of other comprehensive income*, changing the presentation of items contained in Other Comprehensive Income (OCI) and their classification within OCI.

### 1.2.1 Background

The **blurring of distinctions** between different items in OCI is the result of an underlying **general lack of agreement** among users and preparers about **which items should be presented in OCI** and which should be part of the profit or loss section. For instance, a common misunderstanding is that the split between profit or loss and OCI is on the basis of realised versus unrealised gains. This is not, and has never been, the case.

This lack of a consistent basis for determining how items should be presented has led to the somewhat inconsistent use of OCI in financial statements.

### 1.2.2 Change

Entities are required to group items presented in other comprehensive income (OCI) on the basis of **whether they would be reclassified** to (recycled through) profit or loss at a later date, when specified conditions are met.

The amendment does not address which items are presented in other comprehensive income or which items need to be reclassified.

### 1.2.3 Illustrative example

**Note.** This example illustrates the classification of expenses within profit or loss by function. The important aspect to focus on is the treatment of other comprehensive income.

XYZ GROUP – STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X7

|   | \$'000         | \$'000        |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Revenue</i>  | 390,000        | 355,000       |
| Cost of sales   | (245,000)      | (230,000)     |
| Gross profit  | 145,000        | 125,000       |
| Other income  | 20,667         | 11,300        |
| Distribution costs                                    | (9,000)        | (8,700)       |
| Administrative expenses                               | (20,000)       | (21,000)      |
| Other expenses  | (2,100)        | (1,200)       |
| Finance costs   | (8,000)        | (7,500)       |
| Share of profit of associates                         | 35,100         | 30,100        |
| <i>Profit before tax</i>                              | 161,667        | 128,000       |
| Income tax expense                                    | (40,417)       | (32,000)      |
| <i>Profit for the year from continuing operations</i> | 121,250        | 96,000        |
| Loss for the year from discontinued operations –      |                | (30,500)      |
| <b>PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>                            | <b>121,250</b> | <b>65,500</b> |

|   | \$'000         | \$'000        |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Other comprehensive income:</i>                                    |                |               |
| <i>Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:</i>         |                |               |
| Gains on property revaluation   | 933            | 3,367         |
| Investment in equity instruments                                      | (24,000)       | 26,667        |
| Actuarial gains (losses) on defined benefit pension plans             | (667)          | 1,333         |
| Share of gain (loss) on property revaluation of associates            | 400            | (700)         |
| Income tax relating to items that will not be reclassified            | 5,834          | (7,667)       |
|   | (17,500)       | 23,000        |
| <i>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i> |                |               |
| Exchange differences on translating foreign operations                | 5,334          | 10,667        |
| Cash flow hedges  | (667)          | (4,000)       |
| Income tax relating to items that may be reclassified                 | (1,167)        | (1,667)       |
|   | 3,500          | 5,000         |
| <i>Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax</i>            | (14,000)       | 28,000        |
| <b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>                        | <b>107,250</b> | <b>93,500</b> |
| Profit attributable to:   |                |               |
| Owners of the parent  | 97,000         | 52,400        |
| Non-controlling interests   | 24,250         | 13,100        |
|   | 121,250        | 65,500        |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to:                           |                |               |
| Owners of the parent  | 85,800         | 74,800        |
| Non-controlling interests   | 21,450         | 18,700        |
|   | 107,250        | 93,500        |
| Earnings per share (\$)   |                |               |
| Basic and diluted   | 0.46           | 0.30          |

Alternatively, items could be presented in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income net of tax.

Note that the amendment allows entities to use the title 'statement of comprehensive income' instead of 'statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income'. Elsewhere in this Study Text, we have generally used the new title for the full name, but we have also specified whereabouts in the statement (profit or loss for the year or other comprehensive income) the item may be found.

### 1.2.4 Possible advantages

The IASB has identified the following as possible advantages if the proposed changes are implemented.

- Enhanced clarity.** Preserving the distinction between profit or loss and OCI, by requiring them to be presented in separate sections, will assist users in assessing the relevance of individual income and expense items included in OCI and to assess the potential effects that some OCI items may have on profit or loss.
- Better assessment of effects of OCI items.** The distinction between OCI items that are never recognised in profit or loss and those that are subject to reclassification (recycling) will enable users to assess more easily the effect of OCI items on the financial performance of an entity.

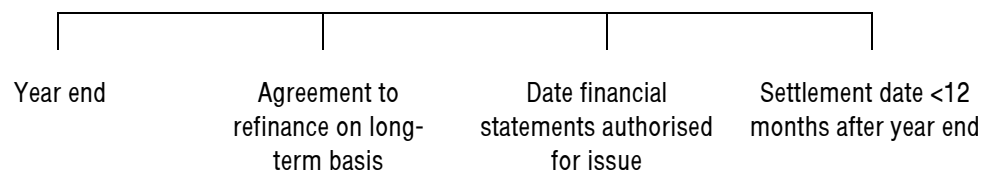
### 1.3 Other aspects of IAS 1

You should note the following further aspects of IAS 1.

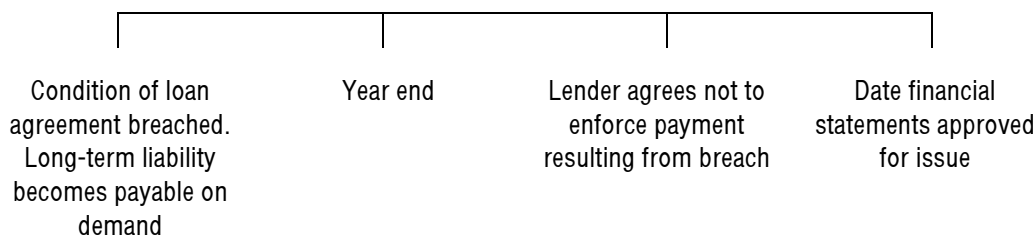
- (a) The standard includes various definitions.

#### Key terms

- **Material.** Omissions or misstatements of items are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements. Materiality depends on the size and nature of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances. The size or nature of the item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor.
  - **Impracticable.** Applying a requirement is impracticable when the entity cannot apply it after making every reasonable effort to do so.
- (b) Guidance is provided on the meaning of **present fairly**, ie represent **faithfully** the effects of transactions and other events in accordance with the **definitions** and recognition criteria for assets, liabilities, income and expenses as set out in the **Conceptual Framework**.
- (c) The application of **IFRSs** with **additional disclosure** where necessary, is presumed to result in financial statements that achieve a **fair presentation**.
- (d) In extremely rare circumstances, **compliance** with a requirement of an IFRS or IFRIC may be so **misleading** that it would conflict with the objective of financial statements set out in the *Framework*, the entity shall **depart from that specific requirement**.
- (i) Where the relevant regulatory framework requires or does not prohibit such a departure, the entity must disclose:
- (1) That management has concluded that the financial statements present fairly the entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows
  - (2) That it has complied with applicable IFRSs except that it has departed from a particular requirement to achieve a fair presentation
  - (3) Full details of the departure
  - (4) The impact on the financial statements for each item affected and for each period presented
- (ii) Where the relevant regulatory framework prohibits departure from the requirement, the entity shall, to the **maximum extent possible**, **reduce** the perceived **misleading aspects** of compliance by **disclosing**:
- (1) The relevant IFRS, the nature of the requirement and the reason why complying with the requirement is misleading
  - (2) For each period presented, the adjustments to each item in the financial statements that would be necessary to achieve a fair presentation
- (e) An entity must present **current** and **non-current assets**, and **current** and **non-current liabilities**, as **separate classifications** in the statement of financial position. A presentation based on liquidity should only be used where it provides more relevant and reliable information, in which cases, all assets and liabilities shall be presented broadly in order of liquidity.
- (f) A **long-term financial liability** due to be **settled within twelve months** of the year end date should be classified as a **current liability**, even if an agreement to refinance, or to reschedule payments, on a long-term basis is completed after the reporting period and before the financial statements are authorised for issue.



- (g) A **long-term financial liability** that is payable on **demand** because the entity **breached** a **condition** of its loan agreement should be classified as **current** at the year end even if the **lender** has agreed **after the year end**, and **before** the financial statements are **authorised for issue**, **not to demand payment** as a consequence of the breach.



However, if the **lender** has **agreed** by the **year end** to provide a **period of grace** ending at **least twelve months after the year end** within which the entity can rectify the breach and during that time the lender cannot demand immediate repayment, the liability is classified as **non-current**.

- (h) All requirements previously set out in other standards for the presentation of particular line items in the statement of financial position and statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income are now dealt with in IAS 1. These line items are: biological assets; liabilities and assets for current tax and deferred tax; and pre-tax gain or loss recognised on the disposal of assets or settlement of liabilities attributable to discontinuing operations.
- (i) The section that set out the **presentation requirements** for the **net profit or loss** for the period in **IAS 8** has now been **transferred** to **IAS 1** instead.
- (j) The following disclosures are no longer required:
- (i) The results of operating activities, as a line item on the face of the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. '**Operating activities**' are **not defined in IAS 1**
  - (ii) **Extraordinary items**, as a line item on the face of the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income (note that the disclosure of 'extraordinary items' is now **prohibited**)
  - (iii) The **number** of an **entity's employees**
- (k) An entity must disclose, in the summary of significant accounting policies and/or other notes, the **judgements** made by management in **applying** the **accounting policies** that have the **most significant effect** on the amounts of items recognised in the financial statements.
- (l) An entity must disclose in the notes information regarding **key assumptions** about the **future**, and other sources of **measurement uncertainty**, that have a significant **risk of** causing a **material adjustment** to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the **next financial year**.
- (m) The following items must be disclosed on the **face of the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income**.
- (i) Profit or loss attributable to **non-controlling interest**
  - (ii) Profit or loss attributable to **equity** holders of the parent

The allocated amounts must not be presented as items of income or expense. There is a similar requirement for the statement of changes in equity or statement of recognised income and expense. (See the example formats above.)

## 1.4 Revision of IAS 8

You have studied this standard already but it is long and important. If you do not understand any of this or if you have problems with the revision question, go back and revise your earlier study material.

There have been extensive revisions to the standard, which is now called *IAS 8 Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors*. The new title reflects the fact that the material on determining net profit and loss for the period has been transferred to IAS 1.

## IAS 8 Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors

### Definitions

- **Accounting policies** are the specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices adopted by an entity in preparing and presenting financial statements.

The remaining definitions are either new or heavily amended.

- A **change in accounting estimate** is an adjustment of the carrying amount of an asset or a liability or the amount of the periodic consumption of an asset, that results from the assessment of the present status of, and expected future benefits and obligations associated with, assets and liabilities. Changes in accounting estimates result from new information or new developments and, accordingly, are not corrections of errors.

- **Material:** as defined in IAS 1 (see above)

- **Prior period errors** are omissions from, and misstatements in, the entity's financial statements for one or more prior periods arising from a failure to use, or misuse of, reliable information that:

- Was available when financial statements for those periods were authorised for issue, and
- Could reasonably be expected to have been obtained and taken into account in the preparation and presentation of those financial statements.

Such errors include the effects of mathematical mistakes, mistakes in applying accounting policies, oversights or misinterpretations of facts, and fraud.

- **Retrospective application** is applying a new accounting policy to transactions, other events and conditions as if that policy had always been applied.
- **Retrospective restatement** is correcting the recognition, measurement and disclosure of amounts of elements of financial statements as if a prior period error had never occurred.
- **Prospective application** of a change in accounting policy and of recognising the effect of a change in an accounting estimate, respectively, are:

- Applying the new accounting policy to transactions, other events and conditions occurring after the date as at which the policy is changes; and
- Recognising the effect of the change in the accounting estimate in the current and future periods affected by the change.

- **Impracticable.** Applying a requirement is impracticable when the entity cannot apply it after making every reasonable effort to do so. It is impracticable to apply a change in an accounting policy retrospectively or to make a retrospective restatement to correct an error if one of the following apply.

- The effects or the retrospective application or retrospective restatement are not determinable.
- The retrospective application or retrospective restatement requires assumptions about what management's intent would have been in that period.
- The retrospective application or retrospective restatement requires significant estimates of amounts and it is impossible to distinguish objectively information about those estimates that: provides evidence of circumstances that existed on the date(s) at which those amounts are to be recognised, measured or disclosed; and would have been available when the financial statements for that prior period were authorised for issue from other information.

### Accounting policies

This material has been transferred into IAS 8 from IAS 1.

- Accounting policies are determined by **applying the relevant IFRS or IFRIC** and considering any relevant Implementation Guidance issued by the IASB for that IFRS/IFRIC.
- Where there is no applicable IFRS or IFRIC management should use its **judgement** in developing and applying an accounting policy that results in information that is **relevant** and **reliable**. Management should refer to:
  - (a) The requirements and guidance in IFRSs and IFRICs dealing with **similar** and **related issues**.
  - (b) The definitions, recognition criteria and measurement concepts for assets, liabilities and expenses in the **Conceptual Framework**.

Management may also consider the most recent pronouncements of other standard setting bodies that use a similar conceptual framework to develop standards, other accounting literature and accepted industry practices if these do not conflict with the sources above.

- An entity shall select and apply its accounting policies for a period **consistently** for similar transactions, other events and conditions, unless an IFRS or an IFRIC specifically requires or permits categorisation of items for which different policies may be appropriate. If an IFRS or an IFRIC requires or permits categorisation of items, an appropriate accounting policy shall be selected and applied consistently to each category.

### Changes in accounting policies

- These are **rare**: only required by statute/standard-setting body/results in reliable and more relevant information.
- **Adoption of new IAS**: follow transitional provisions of IAS. If no transitional provisions: **retrospective** application.
- **Other changes in policy**: **retrospective** application. Adjust opening balance of each affected component of equity, ie as if new policy has always been applied.
- **Prospective** application is **no longer allowed** unless it is **impracticable** to determine the cumulative effect of the change. (See definition of impracticable above.)
- An entity should **disclose** information relevant to assessing the **impact of new IFRSs/IFRICs** on the financial statements where these have been **issued but have not yet come into force**.

### Changes in accounting estimates

- Estimates arise because of **uncertainties inherent within them**, judgement is required but this does not undermine reliability.
- Effect of a change in accounting estimate should be included in net profit/loss in:
  - Period of change, if change affects only current period, or
  - Period of change and future periods, if change affects both.

### Errors

(See definition of prior period error above; this **replaces** definition of **fundamental error** in previous version of IAS 8.)

- **Prior period errors**: correct **retrospectively**. There is **no** longer any **allowed alternative** treatment.

- This involves:
  - (a) Either restating the comparative amounts for the prior period(s) in which the error occurred,
  - (b) Or when the error occurred before the earliest prior period presented, restating the opening balances of assets, liabilities and equity for that period so that the financial statements are presented as if the error had never occurred.
- Only where it is **impracticable** to determine the cumulative effect of an error on prior periods can an entity correct an error **prospectively**.

The following question will allow you to revise IAS 8.



### Question

### Prior period error

During 20X7 Lubi Co discovered that certain items had been included in inventory at 31 December 20X6, valued at \$4.2m, which had in fact been sold before the year end. The following figures for 20X6 (as reported) and 20X7 (draft) are available.

|                        | 20X6         | 20X7 (draft) |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                        | \$'000       | \$'000       |
| Sales                  | 47,400       | 67,200       |
| Cost of goods sold     | (34,570)     | (55,800)     |
| Profit before taxation | 12,830       | 11,400       |
| Income taxes           | (3,880)      | (3,400)      |
| Net profit             | <u>8,950</u> | <u>8,000</u> |

Reserves at 1 January 20X6 were \$13m. The cost of goods sold for 20X7 includes the \$4.2m error in opening inventory. The income tax rate was 30% for 20X6 and 20X7.

#### Required

Show the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for 20X7, with the 20X6 comparative, and retained earnings.

### Answer

#### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

|  | 20X6          | 20X7          |
|--|---------------|---------------|
|  | \$'000        | \$'000        |
| Sales  | 47,400        | 67,200        |
| Cost of goods sold (W1)                          | (38,770)      | (51,600)      |
| Profit before tax                                | 8,630         | 15,600        |
| Income tax (W2)                                  | (2,620)       | (4,660)       |
| Net profit                                       | <u>6,010</u>  | <u>10,940</u> |
| <b>RETAINED EARNINGS</b>                         |               |               |
| Opening retained earnings                        |               |               |
| As previously reported                           | 13,000        | 21,950        |
| Correction of prior period error (4,200 – 1,260) | –             | (2,940)       |
| As restated                                      | <u>13,000</u> | <u>19,010</u> |
| Net profit for year                              | <u>6,010</u>  | <u>10,940</u> |
| Closing retained earnings                        | <u>19,010</u> | <u>29,950</u> |

### Workings

|   |                                    |               |               |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | Cost of goods sold                 | 20X6          | 20X7          |
|   |                                    | \$'000        | \$'000        |
|   | As stated in question              | 34,570        | 55,800        |
|   | inventory adjustment               | 4,200         | (4,200)       |
|   |                                    | <u>38,770</u> | <u>51,600</u> |
| 2 | Income tax                         | 20X6          | 20X7          |
|   |                                    | \$'000        | \$'000        |
|   | As stated in question              | 3,880         | 3,400         |
|   | Inventory adjustment (4,200 × 30%) | (1,260)       | 1,260         |
|   |                                    | <u>2,620</u>  | <u>4,660</u>  |

## 2 Segment reporting

6/08, 12/11

### FAST FORWARD

An important aspect of reporting financial performance is **segment reporting**. This is covered by IFRS 8 *Operating segments*, which replaced IAS 14 *Segment reporting* in 2006.

### 2.1 Introduction

Large entities produce a wide range of products and services, often in several different countries. Further information on how the overall results of entities are made up from each of these product or geographical areas will help the users of the financial statements. This is the reason for **segment reporting**.

- The entity's **past performance** will be better understood
- The entity's **risks and returns** may be better assessed
- More **informed judgements** may be made about the entity as a whole

Risks and returns of a **diversified, multi-national company** can only be assessed by looking at the individual risks and rewards attached to groups of products or services or in different groups of products or services or in different geographical areas. These are subject to differing rates of profitability, opportunities for growth, future prospects and risks.

Segment reporting is covered by IFRS 8 *Operating segments*, which replaced IAS 14 *Segment reporting* in November 2006.

### 2.2 Objective

An entity must disclose information to enable users of its financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business activities in which it engages and the economic environments in which it operates.

### 2.3 Scope

Only entities whose **equity or debt securities are publicly traded** (ie on a stock exchange) need disclose segment information. In group accounts, only **consolidated** segmental information needs to be shown. (The statement also applies to entities filing or in the process of filing financial statements for the purpose of issuing instruments.)

### 2.4 Definition of operating segment

### FAST FORWARD

**Reportable segments** are operating segments or aggregation of operating segments that meet specified criteria.



You need to learn this definition, as it is crucial to the standard.

### Key term

**Operating segment:** This is a component of an entity:

- (a) That engages in business activities from which it may earn revenues and incur expenses (including revenues and expenses relating to transactions with other items of the same entity)
- (b) Whose operating results are regularly reviewed by the entity's chief operating decision maker to make decisions about resources to be allocated to the segment and assess its performance, and
- (c) For which discrete financial information is available.

*IFRS 8*

The term 'chief operating decision maker' identifies a function, not necessarily a manager with a specific title. That function is to allocate resources and to assess the performance of the entity's operating segments

## 2.5 Aggregation

Two or more operating segments may be **aggregated** if the segments have **similar economic characteristics**, and the segments are similar in *each* of the following respects:

- The **nature of the products or services**
- The **nature of the production process**
- The **type or class of customer for their products or services**
- The **methods used to distribute their products or provide their services**, and
- If applicable, the **nature of the regulatory environment**

## 2.6 Determining reportable segments

An entity must report separate information about **each operating segment** that:

- (a) Has been identified as meeting the **definition of an operating segment**; and
- (b) Segment total is **10% or more of total**:
  - (i) **Revenue** (internal and external), or
  - (ii) **All segments not reporting a loss** (or all segments in loss if greater), or
  - (iii) **Assets**

At least **75% of total external revenue** must be reported by operating segments. Where this is not the case, additional segments must be identified (even if they do not meet the 10% thresholds).

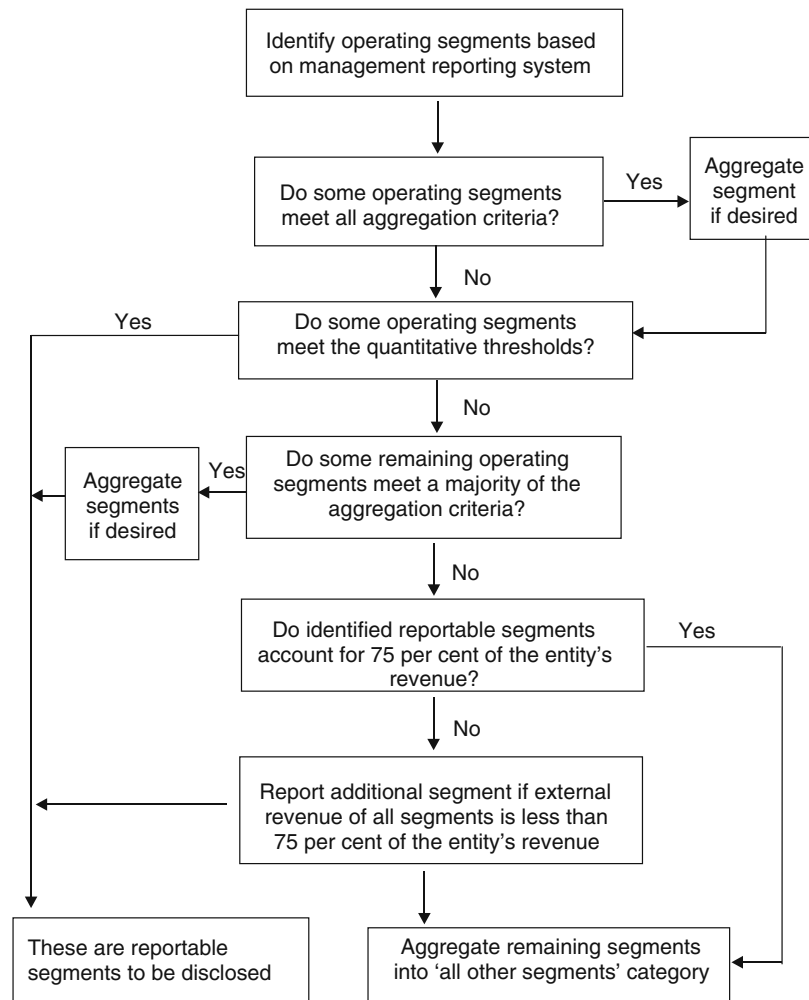
Two or more operating segments **below** the thresholds may be aggregated to produce a reportable segment if the segments have similar economic characteristics, and the segments are similar in a **majority** of the aggregation criteria above.

Operating segments that do not meet **any of the quantitative thresholds** may be reported separately if management believes that information about the segment would be useful to users of the financial statements.

### 2.6.1 Decision tree to assist in identifying reportable segments

The following decision tree will assist in identifying reportable segments.





### Exam focus point

As this is a financial analysis paper, you may well be given a segment report and asked to interpret it, or to comment generally on the need for this kind of report.

## 2.7 Disclosures

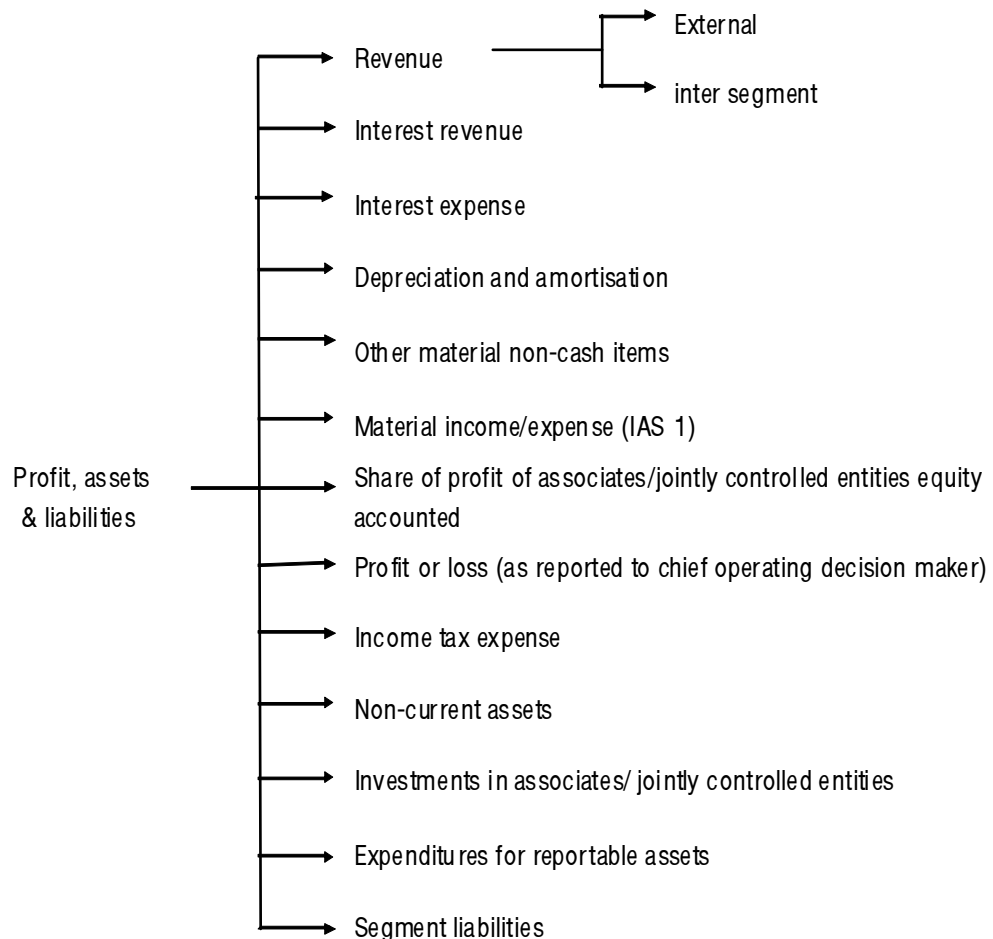
### FAST FORWARD

- IFRS 8 disclosures are of:
  - Operating segment profit or loss
  - Segment assets
  - Segment liabilities
  - Certain income and expense items
- Disclosures are also required about the **revenues derived from products or services** and about the countries in which revenues are earned or assets held, even if that information is not used by management in making decisions.

Disclosures required by the IFRS are extensive, and best learned by looking at the example and proforma, which follow the list.

- Factors used to identify the entity's reportable segments
- Types of products and services** from which each reportable segment derives its revenues

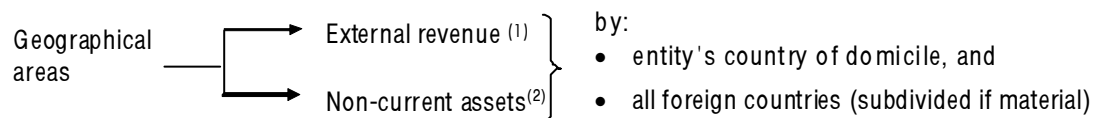
- (c) Reportable segment revenues, profit or loss, assets, liabilities and other material items:



A **reconciliation** of the each of the above material items to the entity's reported figures is required.

Reporting of a measure of **profit or loss** and **total assets** by segment is compulsory. Other items are disclosed if included in the figures reviewed by or regularly provided to the chief operating decision maker.

- (d) **External revenue** by each product and service (if reported basis is not products and services)
- (e) Geographical information:



#### Notes

- (1) External revenue is allocated based on the customer's location.
- (2) Non-current assets excludes financial instruments, deferred tax assets, post-employment benefit assets, and rights under insurance contracts.
- (f) Information about **reliance on major customers** (ie those who represent more than 10% of external revenue)
- (g) Following the improvements to IFRS issued in April 2009, segment asset disclosure is no longer compulsory if it is not reported internally.

## 2.7.1 Disclosure example from IFRS 8

The following example is adapted from the IFRS 8 *Implementation Guidance*, which emphasises that this is for illustrative purposes only and that the information must be presented in the most understandable manner in the specific circumstances.

The hypothetical company does not allocate tax expense (tax income) or non-recurring gains and losses to reportable segments. In addition, not all reportable segments have material non-cash items other than depreciation and amortisation in profit or loss. The amounts in this illustration, denominated as dollars, are assumed to be the amounts in reports used by the chief operating decision maker.

|   | <i>Car<br/>parts</i><br>\$ | <i>Motor<br/>vessel</i><br>\$ | <i>Software</i><br>\$ | <i>Electronics</i><br>\$ | <i>Finance</i><br>\$ | <i>All<br/>other</i><br>\$ | <i>Totals</i><br>\$ |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Revenues from external customers                      | 3,000                      | 5,000                         | 9,500                 | 12,000                   | 5,000                | 1,000 <sup>(a)</sup>       | 35,500              |
| Intersegment revenues                                 | –                          | –                             | 3,000                 | 1,500                    | –                    | –                          | 4,500               |
| Interest revenue                                      | 450                        | 800                           | 1,000                 | 1,500                    | –                    | –                          | 3,750               |
| Interest expense                                      | 350                        | 600                           | 700                   | 1,100                    | –                    | –                          | 2,750               |
| Net interest revenue <sup>(b)</sup>                   | –                          | –                             | –                     | –                        | 1,000                | –                          | 1,000               |
| Depreciation and amortisation                         | 200                        | 100                           | 50                    | 1,500                    | 1,100                | –                          | 2,950               |
| Reportable segment profit                             | 200                        | 70                            | 900                   | 2,300                    | 500                  | 100                        | 4,070               |
| Other material non-cash items:                        |                            |                               |                       |                          |                      |                            |                     |
| Impairment of assets                                  | –                          | 200                           | –                     | –                        | –                    | –                          | 200                 |
| Reportable segment assets                             | 2,000                      | 5,000                         | 3,000                 | 12,000                   | 57,000               | 2,000                      | 81,000              |
| Expenditure for reportable segment non-current assets | 300                        | 700                           | 500                   | 800                      | 600                  | –                          | 2,900               |
| Reportable segment liabilities                        | 1,050                      | 3,000                         | 1,800                 | 8,000                    | 30,000               | –                          | 43,850              |

- (a) Revenues from segments below the quantitative thresholds are attributable to four operating segments of the company. Those segments include a small property business, an electronics equipment rental business, a software consulting practice and a warehouse leasing operation. None of those segments has ever met any of the quantitative thresholds for determining reportable segments.
- (b) The finance segment derives a majority of its revenue from interest. Management primarily relies on net interest revenue, not the gross revenue and expense amounts, in managing that segment. Therefore, as permitted by IFRS 8, only the net amount is disclosed.

## 2.7.2 Suggested proforma

### Information about profit or loss, assets and liabilities

|                                    | <i>Segment</i> | <i>Segment</i> | <i>Segment</i> | <i>All other</i> | <i>Inter</i>   | <i>Entity</i> |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
|                                    | <i>A</i>       | <i>B</i>       | <i>C</i>       | <i>segments</i>  | <i>segment</i> | <i>total</i>  |
| Revenue – external customers       | X              | X              | X              | X                | –              | X             |
| Revenue – inter segment            | X              | X              | X              | X                | X              | –             |
|                                    | X              | X              | X              | X                | (X)            | X             |
| Interest revenue                   | X              | X              | X              | X                | (X)            | X             |
| Interest expense                   | (X)            | (X)            | (X)            | (X)              | X              | (X)           |
| Depreciation and amortisation      | (X)            | (X)            | (X)            | (X)              | –              | (X)           |
| Other material non-cash items      | X/(X)          | X/(X)          | X/(X)          | X/(X)            | X/(X)          | X/(X)         |
| Material income/expense (IAS 1)    | X/(X)          | X/(X)          | X/(X)          | X/(X)            | X/(X)          | X/(X)         |
| Share of profit of associate/JVs   | X              | X              | X              | X                | –              | X             |
| Segment profit before tax          | X              | X              | X              | X                | (X)            | X             |
| Income tax expense                 | (X)            | (X)            | (X)            | (X)              | –              | (X)           |
| Unallocated items                  |                |                |                |                  |                | X/(X)         |
| Profit for the year                |                |                |                |                  |                | X             |
| Segment assets                     | X              | X              | X              | X                | (X)            | X             |
| Investments in associate/JVs       | X              | X              | X              | X                | –              | X             |
| Unallocated assets                 |                |                |                |                  |                | X             |
| Entity's assets                    |                |                |                |                  |                | X             |
| Expenditures for reportable assets | X              | X              | X              | X                | (X)            | X             |
| Segment liabilities                | X              | X              | X              | X                | (X)            | X             |
| Unallocated liabilities            |                |                |                |                  |                | X             |
| Entity's liabilities               |                |                |                |                  |                | X             |

### Information about geographical areas

|                              | <i>Country of domicile</i> | <i>Foreign countries</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Revenue – external customers | X                          | X                        | X            |
| Non-current assets           | X                          | X                        | X            |

## 2.8 Advantages and disadvantages of the old and new segment definition approaches

|                                       | Advantages  | Disadvantages  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 'Risks and returns' approach (IAS 14) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The information can be reconciled to the financial statements</li> <li>It is a consistent method</li> <li>The method helps to highlight the profitability, risks and returns of an identifiable segment</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The information may be commercially sensitive</li> <li>The segments may include operations with different risks and returns</li> </ul>  |
| 'Managerial' approach (IFRS 8)        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is cost effective because the marginal cost of reporting segmental data will be low</li> <li>Users can be sure that the segment data reflects the operational strategy of the business</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Segment determination is the responsibility of directors and is subjective</li> <li>Management may report segments which are not consistent for internal reporting and control purposes making its usefulness questionable</li> </ul> |

## 2.9 Criticisms of IFRS 8

- Some commentators have criticised the 'management approach' as leaving segment identification **too much to the discretion of the entity**.
- The management approach may mean that financial statements of different entities are **not comparable**.
- Segment determination is the responsibility of directors and is **subjective**.
- Management may report segments which are **not consistent** for internal reporting and control purposes, making its usefulness questionable.
- For accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005 listed entities within the EU are required to use adopted international standards in their consolidated financial statements. The **EU has not yet adopted IFRS 8** and until it does IAS 14 will continue to apply here. Some stakeholders believe the standard to be flawed due to the amount of discretion it gives to management.
- Geographical information** has been **downgraded**. It could be argued that this **breaks the link between a company and its stakeholders**.
- There is **no defined measure** of segment profit or loss.

## 2.10 Example: Determining operating segments

Jesmond, a retail and leisure group, has three businesses operating in different parts of the world. Jesmond reports to management on the basis of region. The results of the regional segments for the year ended 31 December 20X9 are as follows.

| Region        | Revenue         |                 | Segment results<br>profit/(loss) | Segment<br>assets | Segment<br>liabilities |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
|               | External<br>\$m | Internal<br>\$m |                                  |                   |                        |
| European      | 200             | 3               | (10)                             | 300               | 200                    |
| North America | 300             | 2               | 60                               | 800               | 300                    |
| Other regions | 500             | 5               | 105                              | 2,000             | 1,400                  |

There were no significant intra-group balances in the segment assets and liabilities. The retail outlets and leisure centres are located in capital cities in the various regions, and the company sets individual performance indicators for each hotel based on its city location.

### Required

Discuss the principles in IFRS 8 *Operating segments* for the determination of a company's reportable operating segments and how these principles would be applied for Jesmond plc using the information given above.

## Solution

IFRS 8 *Operating segments* states that an operating segment is a reported **separately** if:

- (i) It **meets the definition of an operating segment**, ie:
  - (1) It engages in business activities from which it may **earn revenues** and **incur expenses**,
  - (2) Its operating results are **regularly reviewed by the entity's chief operating decision maker** to make decisions about resources to be allocated to the segment and assess its performance, and
  - (3) **Discrete financial information** is available for the segment,

**and**

- (ii) It exceeds **at least one** of the following quantitative thresholds:
  - (1) Reported revenue is **10% or more the combined revenue** of all operating segments (external and intersegment), or
  - (2) The absolute amount of its reported profit or loss is **10% or more of the greater of**, in absolute amount, **all operating segments not reporting a loss, and all operating segments reporting a loss**, or
  - (3) Its assets are **10% or more of the total assets** of all operating segments.

At least **75% of total external revenue** must be reported by operating segments. Where this is not the case, additional segments must be identified (even if they do not meet the 10% thresholds).

Two or more operating segments **below** the thresholds may be aggregated to produce a reportable segment if the segments have similar economic characteristics, and the segments are similar in a **majority** of the following aggregation criteria:

- (1) The nature of the products and services
- (2) The nature of the production process
- (3) The type or class of customer for their products or services
- (4) The methods used to distribute their products or provide their services
- (5) If applicable, the nature of the regulatory environment

Operating segments that do not meet **any of the quantitative thresholds** may be reported separately if management believes that information about the segment **would** be useful to users of the financial statements.

For Jesmond, **the thresholds are as follows**.

- (i) Combined revenue is \$1,010 million, so 10% is \$101 million.
- (ii) Combined reported profit is \$165 million, so 10% is \$16.5 million.
- (iii) Combined reported loss is \$10 million, so 10% is \$1 million.
- (iv) Total assets are \$3,100 million, so 10% is \$310 million.

The **North America segment** meets the criteria, passing all three tests. Its combined revenue is \$302 million; its reported profit is \$60 million, and its assets are \$800 million.

The **European segment** also meets the criteria, but only marginally. Its reported revenue, at \$203 million is greater than 10% of combined revenue, and only one of the tests must be satisfied. However, its loss of \$10 million is less than the greater of 10% of combined profit and 10% of combined loss, so it fails this test. It also fails the assets test, as its assets, at \$300 million are less than 10% of combined assets (\$310 million).

IFRS 8 requires further that at least 75% of total external revenue must be reported by operating segments. Currently, only 50% is so reported. Additional operating segments (the 'other regions') must be identified until this 75% threshold is reached.

IFRS 8 may result in a **change** to the way Jesmond's operating segments are reported, depending on how segments were previously identified.

## 2.11 Section summary

IFRS 8 is a **disclosure standard D**:

- **Segment reporting** is necessary for a better understanding and assessment of:
  - Past performance
  - Risks and returns
  - Informed judgements
- IFRS 8 adopts the **managerial approach** to identifying segments
- The standard gives guidance on how segments should be **identified** and **what information should be disclosed** for each

It also sets out **requirements for related disclosures** about products and services, geographical areas and major customers.

## 3 IAS 33 Earnings per share

### FAST FORWARD

**Earnings per share** is a measure of the amount of profits earned by a company for each ordinary share. Earnings are profits after tax and preferred dividends.

### Exam focus point

You studied the bulk of IAS 33 for earlier papers. The examiner has stated that it is not going to form the basis of a full question. However, you may have to talk about the potential for manipulation.

Remember that the objective of IAS 33 is to improve the **comparison** of the performance of different entities in the same period and of the same entity in different accounting periods.

### 3.1 Definitions

The following definitions are given in IAS 33.

### Key terms

**Ordinary share:** an equity instrument that is subordinate to all other classes of equity instruments.

**Potential ordinary share:** a financial instrument or other contract that may entitle its holder to ordinary shares.

**Options, warrants and their equivalents:** financial instruments that give the holder the right to purchase ordinary shares.

**Contingently issuable ordinary shares** are ordinary shares issuable for little or no cash or other consideration upon the satisfaction of certain conditions in a contingent share agreement.

**Contingent share agreement:** an agreement to issue shares that is dependent on the satisfaction of specified conditions.

**Dilution** is a reduction in earnings per share or an increase in loss per share resulting from the assumption that convertible instruments are converted, that options or warrants are exercised, or that ordinary shares are issued upon the satisfaction of certain conditions.

**Antidilution** is an increase in earnings per share or a reduction in loss per share resulting from the assumption that convertible instruments are converted, that options or warrants are exercised, or that ordinary shares are issued upon the satisfaction of certain conditions.

(IAS 33)



### 3.1.1 Ordinary shares

There may be more than one class of ordinary shares, but ordinary shares of the same class will have the same rights to receive dividends. Ordinary shares participate in the net profit for the period **only after other types of shares**, eg preference shares.

### 3.1.2 Potential ordinary shares

IAS 33 identifies the following examples of financial instrument and other contracts generating potential ordinary shares.

- (a) **Debts** (financial liabilities) **or equity instruments**, including preference shares, that are convertible into ordinary shares
- (b) **Share warrants and options**
- (c) Shares that would be issued upon the satisfaction of **certain conditions** resulting from contractual arrangements, such as the purchase of a business or other assets

## 3.2 Scope

IAS 33 has the following **scope restrictions**.

- (a) Only companies with (potential) ordinary shares which are **publicly traded** need to present EPS (including companies in the process of being listed).
- (b) EPS need only be presented on the basis of **consolidated results** where the parent's results are shown as well.
- (c) Where companies **choose** to present EPS, even when they have no (potential) ordinary shares which are traded, they must do so according to IAS 33.

## 3.3 Basic EPS

### FAST FORWARD

**Basic EPS** is calculated by dividing the net profit or loss for the period attributable to ordinary shareholders by the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the period.

You should know how to calculate **basic EPS** and how to deal with related complications (issue of shares for cash, bonus issue, share splits/reverse share splits, rights issues).

Basic EPS should be calculated for **profit or loss attributable to ordinary equity holders** of the parent entity and **profit or loss from continuing operations** attributable to those equity holders (if this is presented).

**Basic EPS** should be calculated by dividing the **net profit** or loss for the period attributable to ordinary equity holders by the **weighted average number of ordinary shares** outstanding during the period.

$$\frac{\text{Net profit/(loss) attributable to ordinary shareholders}}{\text{Weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the period}}$$

### 3.3.1 Earnings

Earnings includes **all items of income and expense** (including tax and non-controlling interest) *less* net profit attributable to **preference shareholders**, including preference dividends.

**Preference dividends** deducted from net profit consist of the following:

- (a) Preference dividends on non-cumulative preference shares declared in respect of the period.
- (b) Preference dividends for cumulative preference shares required for the period, *whether or not* they have been declared (*excluding* those paid/declared during the period in respect of previous periods).

If an entity purchases its own preference shares for more than their carrying amount the excess should be treated as a return to the preference shareholders and deducted from profit or loss attributable to ordinary equity holders.

### 3.3.2 Per share

The number of ordinary shares used should be the **weighted average** number of ordinary shares during the period. This figure (for all periods presented) should be **adjusted for events**, other than the conversion of potential ordinary shares, that have changed the number of shares outstanding without a corresponding change in resources.

The **time-weighting factor** is the number of days the shares were outstanding compared with the total number of days in the period. A reasonable approximation is usually adequate.

Shares are usually included in the weighted average number of shares from the **date consideration is receivable** which is usually the date of issue. In other cases consider the specific terms attached to their issue (consider the substance of any contract). The treatment for the issue of ordinary shares in different circumstances is as follows.

| Consideration  | Start date for inclusion                        |
|--|---|
| In exchange for cash   | When cash is receivable                         |
| On the voluntary reinvestment of dividends on ordinary or preferred shares | The dividend payment date                       |
| As a result of the conversion of a debt instrument to ordinary shares      | Date interest ceases accruing                   |
| In place of interest or principal on other financial instruments           | Date interest ceases accruing                   |
| In exchange for the settlement of a liability of the entity                | The settlement date                             |
| As consideration for the acquisition of an asset other than cash           | The date on which the acquisition is recognised |
| For the rendering of services to the entity                                | As services are rendered                        |

Ordinary shares issued as **purchase consideration** in an acquisition should be included as of the date of acquisition because the acquired entity's results will also be included from that date.

Where a **uniting of interests** takes place the number of ordinary shares used for the calculation is the aggregate of the weighted average number of shares of the combined entities, adjusted to equivalent shares of the entity whose shares are outstanding after the combination.

Ordinary shares that will be issued on the **conversion** of a mandatorily convertible instrument are included in the calculation from the **date the contract is entered into**.

If ordinary shares are **partly paid**, they are treated as a fraction of an ordinary share to the extent they are entitled to dividends relative to fully paid ordinary shares.

**Contingently issuable shares** (including those subject to recall) are included in the computation when all necessary conditions for issue have been satisfied.

### 3.4 Diluted EPS

#### FAST FORWARD

**Diluted EPS** is calculated by adjusting the net profit attributable to ordinary shareholders and the weighted average number of shares outstanding for the effects of all dilutive potential ordinary shares.

At the end of an accounting period, a company may have in issue some **securities** which do not (at present) have any 'claim' to a share of equity earnings, but **may give rise to such a claim in the future**.

- (a) **A separate class of equity shares** which at present is not entitled to any dividend, but will be entitled after some future date
- (b) **Convertible loan stock** or **convertible preferred shares** which give their holders the right at some future date to exchange their securities for ordinary shares of the company, at a pre-determined conversion rate
- (c) **Options** or **warrants**

In such circumstances, the future number of shares ranking for dividend might increase, which in turn results in a fall in the EPS. In other words, a **future increase** in the **number of equity shares will cause a**

**dilution or 'watering down' of equity**, and it is possible to calculate a **diluted earnings per share** (ie the EPS that would have been obtained during the financial period if the dilution had already taken place). This will indicate to investors the possible effects of a future dilution.

### 3.4.1 Earnings

The earnings calculated for basic EPS should be adjusted by the **post-tax** (including deferred tax) effect of the following.

- (a) Any **dividends** on dilutive potential ordinary shares that were deducted to arrive at earnings for basic EPS
- (b) **Interest recognised** in the period for the dilutive potential ordinary shares
- (c) Any **other changes in income or expenses** (fees and discount, premium accounted for as yield adjustments) that would result from the conversion of the dilutive potential ordinary shares

The conversion of some potential ordinary shares may lead to changes in **other income or expenses**. For example, the reduction of interest expense related to potential ordinary shares and the resulting increase in net profit for the period may lead to an increase in the expense relating to a non-discretionary employee profit-sharing plan. When calculating diluted EPS, the net profit or loss for the period is adjusted for any such consequential changes in income or expense.

### 3.4.2 Per share

The number of ordinary shares is the weighted average number of ordinary shares calculated for basic EPS plus the weighted average number of ordinary shares that would be issued on the conversion of all the **dilutive potential ordinary shares** into ordinary shares.

It should be assumed that dilutive ordinary shares were converted into ordinary shares at the **beginning of the period** or, if later, at the actual date of issue. There are two other points.

- (a) The computation assumes the most **advantageous conversion rate** or exercise rate from the standpoint of the holder of the potential ordinary shares.
- (b) A **subsidiary, joint venture or associate** may issue potential ordinary shares that are convertible into either ordinary shares of the subsidiary, joint venture or associate, or ordinary shares of the reporting entity. If these potential ordinary shares have a dilutive effect on the consolidated basic EPS of the reporting entity, they are included in the calculation of diluted EPS.

#### Exam focus point

Read through the example for background only – you won't need to calculate a dilutive EPS in the exam.

## 3.5 Example: Diluted EPS

In 20X7 Farrah Co had a basic EPS of 105c based on earnings of \$105,000 and 100,000 ordinary \$1 shares. It also had in issue \$40,000 15% Convertible Loan Stock which is convertible in two years' time at the rate of four ordinary shares for every \$5 of stock. The rate of tax is 30%. In 20X7 gross profit of \$150,000 was recorded.

*Required*

Calculate the diluted EPS.

### Solution

Diluted EPS is calculated as follows.

**Step 1**      **Number of shares:** the additional equity on conversion of the loan stock will be  $40,000 \times \frac{4}{5} = 32,000$  shares

**Step 2**      **Earnings:** Farrah Co will save interest payments of \$6,000 but this increase in profits will be taxed

Hence the earnings figure may be recalculated:

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
|                                  | \$             |
| Gross profit \$(150,000 + 6,000) | 156,000        |
| Tax (30%)                        | 46,800         |
| Profit after taxation            | <u>109,200</u> |

**Step 3** Calculation: Diluted EPS =  $\frac{\$109,200}{132,000} = 82.7c$

**Step 4** Dilution: the dilution in earnings would be  $105c - 82.7c = 22.3c$  per share.



## Question

EPS 1

Ardent Co has 5,000,000 ordinary shares of 25 cents each in issue, and also had in issue in 20X4:

- \$1,000,000 of 14% convertible loan stock, convertible in three years' time at the rate of 2 shares per \$10 of stock.
- \$2,000,000 of 10% convertible loan stock, convertible in one year's time at the rate of 3 shares per \$5 of stock.

The total earnings in 20X4 were \$1,750,000.

The rate of income tax is 35%.

*Required*

Calculate the EPS and diluted EPS.

## Answer

(a)  $EPS = \frac{\$1,750,000}{5 \text{ million}} = 35 \text{ cents}$

- (b) On dilution, the (maximum) number of shares in issue would be:

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
|                            | Shares           |
| Current                    | 5,000,000        |
| On conversion of 14% stock | 200,000          |
| On conversion of 10% stock | <u>1,200,000</u> |
|                            | <u>6,400,000</u> |

|  |                |                  |
|--|----------------|------------------|
|  | \$             | \$               |
| Current earnings                       |                | 1,750,000        |
| Add interest saved (140,000 + 200,000) | 340,000        |                  |
| Less tax thereon at 35%                | <u>119,000</u> |                  |
|  |                | <u>221,000</u>   |
| Revised earnings                       |                | <u>1,971,000</u> |

Fully diluted EPS =  $\frac{\$1,971,000}{6.4 \text{ million}} = 30.8 \text{ cents}$

## 3.6 Presentation

A entity should present in the **statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income** basic and diluted EPS for:

- profit or loss from continuing operations; and
- profit or loss for the period

for each class of ordinary share that has a different right to share in the net profit for the period.

The basic and diluted EPS should be presented with **equal prominence** for all periods presented.

Basic and diluted EPS for any **discontinuing operations** must also be presented.

Disclosure must still be made where the EPS figures (basic and/or diluted) are **negative** (ie a loss per share).

### 3.7 Alternative EPS figures

An entity may present **alternative EPS figures if it wishes**. However, IAS 33 lays out certain rules where this takes place.

- (a) The weighted average number of shares as calculated under IAS 33 **must** be used.
- (b) A **reconciliation** must be given between the component of profit used in the alternative EPS (if it is not a line item in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income) and the line item for profit reported in profit or loss
- (c) The entity must indicate the basis on which the **numerator** is determined.
- (d) Basic and diluted EPS must be shown with **equal prominence**.

### 3.8 Significance of earnings per share

Earnings per share (EPS) is one of the most frequently quoted statistics in financial analysis. Because of the widespread use of the price earnings (**P/E**) ratio as a yardstick for investment decisions, it became increasingly important.

It seems that reported and therefore, EPS can, through the P/E ratio, have a **significant effect on a company's share price**. Therefore, a share price might fall if it looks as if EPS is going to be low. This is not very rational, as EPS can depend on many, often subjective, assumptions used in preparing a historical statement, namely the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. It does not necessarily bear any relation to the value of a company, and of its shares. Nevertheless, the market is sensitive to EPS.

### 3.9 Exposure Draft: Simplifying earnings per share

The objective of the EPS project is to simplify and converge the calculation of EPS between IAS 33 *Earnings per share* and its US equivalent, SFAS No. 128 *Earnings per share*. To this end, the IASB issued, in August 2008, an Exposure Draft: *Simplifying earnings per share*. This focuses on:

- Simplifying the earnings per share (EPS) calculation
- Establishing a common denominator for the EPS calculation
- Reducing differences between IAS 33 and US Statement of Financial Accounting Standard (SFAS) No. 28 *Earnings per Share*.

#### Exam focus point

Because IAS 33 will not be tested in detail for P2, you do not need to know the Exposure Draft in detail either. The most important aspect is the proposed simplification of the calculation of diluted EPS with share options. **End-of-period market price would be used, rather than average market price** during the period when calculating the dilutive effect of share options.

**Other changes** include the following.

- (a) The ED proposes a **principle to determine which instruments would be included in the basic EPS calculation**. Under the proposed principle the weighted average number of ordinary shares would include only those instruments that give their holder the right to share in the profit or loss for the current period.
- (b) The ED proposes **that if a contract requires an entity to repurchase its own ordinary shares for cash or other financial assets** (eg, a gross physically settled contract), then **such shares to be repurchased are treated as if the entity had already repurchased them**. As a result, these shares would be excluded from the denominator of the EPS calculation.

- (c) For the **diluted EPS calculation**, the ED proposes that **no adjustment be made to reflect the assumed exercise or conversion of instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss**.
- (d) The ED proposes to extend the scope of the application guidance of IAS 33 to **include participating instruments classified as liabilities**.

### 3.10 The P2 exam

Be aware EPS was covered at an earlier level, it is assumed knowledge. You are unlikely to have to deal with the complications, except as they relate to **manipulation by the directors**, particularly of the earnings figure. Have a go at the Case Study question Wingit, at the end of the Text.

EPS has also served as a means of assessing the **stewardship and management** role performed by company directors and managers. Remuneration packages might be linked to EPS growth, thereby increasing the pressure on management to improve EPS. The danger of this, however, is that management effort may go into distorting results to produce a favourable EPS.

### 3.11 Section summary

EPS is an important measure for investors.

- **Basic EPS** is straightforward, although it may require adjustments for **changes in capital structure**
- **Diluted EPS** is more complex
- **In an exam**, you may have to deal with ways in which EPS can be **manipulated**

## 4 IAS 34 Interim financial reporting

IAS 34 recommends that **entities should produce interim financial reports**, and for entities that do publish such reports, it lays down principles and guidelines for their production.

The following definitions are used in IAS 34.

#### Key terms

- **Interim period** is a financial reporting period shorter than a full financial year.
- **Interim financial report** means a financial report containing either a complete set of financial statements (as described in IAS 1) or a set of condensed financial statements (as described in this standard) for an interim period. (IAS 34)

### 4.1 Scope

The standard does not make the preparation of interim financial reports **mandatory**, taking the view that this is a matter for governments, securities regulators, stock exchanges or professional accountancy bodies to decide within each country. The IASB does, however, strongly recommend to governments, etc, that interim financial reporting should be a requirement for companies whose equity or debt securities are **publicly traded**.

- (a) An interim financial report should be produced by such companies for **at least the first six months of their financial year** (ie a half year financial report).
- (b) The report should be **available no later than 60 days** after the end of the interim period.

Therefore, a company with a year ending 31 December would be required as a minimum to prepare an interim report for the half year to 30 June and this report should be available before the end of August.

### 4.2 Minimum components

The proposed standard specifies the **minimum component elements** of an interim financial report.

- Condensed statement of financial position
- Condensed statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
- Condensed statement of changes in equity

- Condensed statement of cash flows
- Selected note disclosures

The rationale for requiring only condensed statements and selected note disclosures is that entities need not duplicate information in their interim report that is contained in their report for the previous financial year. Interim statements should **focus more on new events, activities and circumstances**.

## 4.3 Form and content

Where **full financial statements** are given as interim financial statements, IAS 1 should be used as a guide, otherwise IAS 34 specifies minimum contents.

The **condensed statement of financial position** should include, as a minimum, each of the major components of assets, liabilities and equity as were in the statement of financial position at the end of the previous financial year, thus providing a summary of the economic resources of the entity and its financial structure.

The **condensed statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income** should include, as a minimum, each of the component items of income and expense as are shown in profit or loss for the previous financial year, together with the earnings per share and diluted earnings per share.

The **condensed statement of cash flows** should show, as a minimum, the three major sub-totals of cash flow as required in statements of cash flows by IAS 7, namely: cash flows from operating activities, cash flows from investing activities and cash flow from financing activities.

The **condensed statement of changes in equity** should include, as a minimum, each of the major components of equity as were contained in the statement of changes in equity for the previous financial year of the entity.

### 4.3.1 Selected explanatory notes

IAS 34 states that **relatively minor changes** from the most recent annual financial statements need not be included in an interim report. However, the notes to interim report should include the following (unless the information is contained elsewhere in the report).

- A statement that the **same accounting policies and methods of computation** have been used for the interim statements as were used for the most recent annual financial statements. If not, the nature of the differences and their effect should be described. (The accounting policies for preparing the interim report should only differ from those used for the previous annual accounts in a situation where there has been a change in accounting policy since the end of the previous financial year, and the new policy will be applied for the annual accounts of the current financial period.)
- Explanatory comments on the **seasonality or 'cyclicality'** of operations in the interim period. For example, if a company earns most of its annual profits in the first half of the year, because sales are much higher in the first six months, the interim report for the first half of the year should explain this fact
- The **nature and amount** of items during the interim period affecting assets, liabilities, capital, net income or cash flows, that are unusual, due to their nature, incidence or size
- The **issue or repurchase** of equity or debt securities
- Nature and amount of any **changes in estimates** of amounts reported in an earlier interim report during the financial year, or in prior financial years if these affect the current interim period
- Dividends paid** on ordinary shares and the dividends paid on other shares
- Segmental results** for the business segments or geographical segments of the entity (see IFRS 8)
- Any **significant events since the end of the interim period**
- Effect of the acquisition or disposal of subsidiaries during the interim period
- Any significant change in a **contingent liability or a contingent asset** since the date of the last annual statement of financial position

The entity should also disclose the fact that the interim report has been produced **in compliance with IAS 34** on interim financial reporting.



## Question

## Disclosures

Give some examples of the type of disclosures required according to the above list of explanatory notes.

## Answer

The following are examples.

- (a) Write-down of inventories to net realisable value and the reversal of such a write-down
- (b) Recognition of a loss from the impairment of property, plant and equipment, intangible assets, or other assets, and the reversal of such an impairment loss
- (c) Reversal of any provisions for the costs of restructuring
- (d) Acquisitions and disposals of items of property, plant and equipment
- (e) Commitments for the purchase of property, plant and equipment
- (f) Litigation settlements
- (g) Corrections of fundamental errors in previously reported financial data
- (h) Any debt default or any breach of a debt covenant that has not been corrected subsequently
- (i) Related party transactions

## 4.4 Periods covered

The standard requires that interim financial reports should provide financial information for the following periods or as at the following dates.

- (a) **Statement of financial position data** as at the end of the current interim period, and comparative data as at the end of the most recent financial year
- (b) **Statement of comprehensive income data** for the current interim period and cumulative data for the current year to date, together with comparative data for the corresponding interim period and cumulative figures for the previous financial year
- (c) **Statement of cash flows data** should be *cumulative* for the current year to date, with comparative cumulative data for the corresponding interim period in the previous financial year
- (d) **Data for the statement of changes in equity** should be for both the current interim period and for the year to date, together with comparative data for the corresponding interim period, and cumulative figures, for the previous financial year

## 4.5 Materiality

Materiality should be assessed in relation to the interim period financial data. It should be recognised that interim measurements **rely to a greater extent on estimates** than annual financial data.

## 4.6 Recognition and measurement principles

A large part of IAS 34 deals with recognition and measurement principles, and guidelines as to their practical application. The **guiding principle** is that an entity should use the **same recognition and measurement principles in its interim statements as it does in its annual financial statements**.

This means, for example, that a cost that would not be regarded as an asset in the year-end statement of financial position should not be regarded as an asset in the statement of financial position for an interim period. Similarly, an accrual for an item of income or expense for a transaction that has not yet occurred (or a deferral of an item of income or expense for a transaction that has already occurred) is inappropriate for interim reporting, just as it is for year-end reporting.



Applying this principle of recognition and measurement may result, in a subsequent interim period or at the year-end, in a **remeasurement** of amounts that were reported in a financial statement for a previous interim period. **The nature and amount of any significant remeasurements should be disclosed.**

#### **4.6.1 Revenues received occasionally, seasonally or cyclically**

Revenue that is received as an occasional item, or within a seasonal or cyclical pattern, should not be anticipated or deferred in interim financial statements, if it would be inappropriate to anticipate or defer the revenue for the annual financial statements. In other words, the principles of revenue recognition should be applied consistently to the interim reports and year-end reports.

#### **4.6.2 Costs incurred unevenly during the financial year**

These should only be anticipated or deferred (ie treated as accruals or prepayments) if it would be appropriate to anticipate or defer the expense in the annual financial statements. For example, it would be appropriate to anticipate a cost for property rental where the rental is paid in arrears, but it would be inappropriate to anticipate part of the cost of a major advertising campaign later in the year, for which no expenses have yet been incurred.

The standard goes on, in an appendix, to deal with **specific applications** of the recognition and measurement principle. Some of these examples are explained below, by way of explanation and illustration.

#### **4.6.3 Payroll taxes or insurance contributions paid by employers**

In some countries these are assessed on an annual basis, but paid at an uneven rate during the course of the year, with a large proportion of the taxes being paid in the early part of the year, and a much smaller proportion paid later on in the year. In this situation, it would be appropriate to use an estimated average annual tax rate for the year in an interim statement, not the actual tax paid. This treatment is appropriate because it reflects the fact that the taxes are assessed on an annual basis, even though the payment pattern is uneven.

#### **4.6.4 Cost of a planned major periodic maintenance or overhaul**

The cost of such an event later in the year must not be anticipated in an interim financial statement *unless* there is a legal or constructive obligation to carry out this work. The fact that a maintenance or overhaul is planned and is carried out annually is not of itself sufficient to justify anticipating the cost in an interim financial report.

#### **4.6.5 Other planned but irregularly-occurring costs**

Similarly, these costs such as charitable donations or employee training costs, should not be accrued in an interim report. These costs, even if they occur regularly and are planned, are nevertheless discretionary.

#### **4.6.6 Year-end bonus**

A year-end bonus should not be provided for in an interim financial statement *unless* there is a constructive obligation to pay a year-end bonus (eg a contractual obligation, or a regular past practice) and the size of the bonus can be reliably measured.

#### **4.6.7 Holiday pay**

The same principle applies here. If holiday pay is an enforceable obligation on the employer, then any unpaid accumulated holiday pay may be accrued in the interim financial report.

## 4.6.8 Non-mandatory intangible assets

The entity might incur expenses during an interim period on items that might or will generate non-monetary intangible assets. IAS 38 *Intangible assets* requires that costs to generate non-monetary intangible assets (eg development expenses) should be recognised as an expense when incurred *unless* the costs form part of an identifiable intangible asset. Costs that were initially recognised as an expense cannot subsequently be treated instead as part of the cost of an intangible asset. IAS 34 states that interim financial statements should adopt the same approach. This means that it would be inappropriate in an interim financial statement to 'defer' a cost in the expectation that it will eventually be part of a non-monetary intangible asset that has not yet been recognised: such costs should be treated as an expense in the interim statement.

## 4.6.9 Depreciation

Depreciation should only be charged in an interim statement on non-current assets that have been acquired, not on non-current assets that will be acquired later in the financial year.

## 4.7 Foreign currency translation gains and losses

These should be calculated by the same principles as at the financial year end, in accordance with IAS 21.

### 4.7.1 Tax on income

An entity will include an expense for income tax (tax on profits) in its interim statements. The **tax rate** to use should be the estimated average annual tax rate for the year. For example, suppose that in a particular jurisdiction, the rate of tax on company profits is 30% on the first \$200,000 of profit and 40% on profits above \$200,000. Now suppose that a company makes a profit of \$200,000 in its first half year, and expects to make \$200,000 in the second half year. The rate of tax to be applied in the interim financial report should be 35%, not 30%, ie the expected average rate of tax for the year as a whole. This approach is appropriate because income tax on company profits is charged on an annual basis, and an effective annual rate should therefore be applied to each interim period.

As another illustration, suppose a company earns pre-tax income in the first quarter of the year of \$30,000, but expects to make a loss of \$10,000 in each of the next three quarters, so that net income before tax for the year is zero. Suppose also that the rate of tax is 30%. In this case, it would be inappropriate to anticipate the losses, and the tax charge should be \$9,000 for the first quarter of the year (30% of \$30,000) and a negative tax charge of \$3,000 for each of the next three quarters, if actual losses are the same as anticipated.

Where the tax year for a company does not coincide with its financial year, a separate estimated weighted average tax rate should be applied for each tax year, to the interim periods that fall within that tax year.

Some countries give entities tax credits against the tax payable, based on amounts of capital expenditure or research and development, and so on. Under most tax regimes, these credits are calculated and granted on an annual basis; therefore it is appropriate to include anticipated tax credits within the calculation of the estimated average tax rate for the year, and apply this rate to calculate the tax on income for interim periods. However, if a tax benefit relates to a specific one-time event, it should be recognised within the tax expense for the interim period in which the event occurs.

### 4.7.2 Inventory valuations

Within interim reports, inventories should be valued in the same way as for year-end accounts. It is recognised, however, that it will be necessary to rely more heavily on estimates for interim reporting than for year-end reporting.

In addition, it will normally be the case that the net realisable value of inventories should be estimated from selling prices and related costs to complete and dispose at interim dates.

## 4.8 Use of estimates

Although accounting information must be reliable and free from material error, it may be necessary to sacrifice some accuracy and reliability for the sake of timeliness and cost-benefits. This is particularly the case with interim financial reporting, where there will be much less time to produce reports than at the financial year end. The proposed standard therefore recognises that estimates will have to be used to a greater extent in interim reporting, to assess values or even some costs, than in year-end reporting.

An appendix to IAS 34 gives some examples of the use of estimates.

- (a) **Inventories.** An entity might not need to carry out a full inventory count at the end of each interim period. Instead, it may be sufficient to estimate inventory values using sales margins.
- (b) **Provisions.** An entity might employ outside experts or consultants to advise on the appropriate amount of a provision, as at the year end. It will probably be inappropriate to employ an expert to make a similar assessment at each interim date. Similarly, an entity might employ a professional valuer to revalue non-current assets at the year end, whereas at the interim date(s) the entity will not rely on such experts.
- (c) **Income taxes.** The rate of income tax (tax on profits) will be calculated at the year end by applying the tax rate in each country/jurisdiction to the profits earned there. At the interim stage, it may be sufficient to estimate the rate of income tax by applying the same 'blended' estimated weighted average tax rate to the income earned in all countries/jurisdictions.

The principle of **materiality** applies to interim financial reporting, as it does to year-end reporting. In assessing materiality, it needs to be recognised that interim financial reports will rely more heavily on estimates than year-end reports. Materiality should be assessed in relation to the interim financial statements themselves, and should be independent of 'annual materiality' considerations.

## 4.9 Section summary

- IAS 34 in concept makes **straightforward proposals** for the production of interim financial reports by entities
- It is essential to apply **principles of recognition and measurement** that will prevent entities from 'massaging' the interim figures
- The **detail** in the guidelines is therefore very important, and the application of the recognition and measurement principles to particular valuations and measurements needs to be understood

## 5 Ratio analysis

### FAST FORWARD

Keep the various **sources of financial information** in mind and the effects of insider dealing, the efficient market hypothesis and Stock Exchange regulations.

The accounts of a business are designed to provide users with information about its performance and financial position. The bare figures, however, are not particularly useful and it is only through **comparisons** (usually of ratios) that their significance can be established. Comparisons may be made with previous financial periods, with other similar businesses or with averages for the particular industry. The choice will depend on the purpose for which the comparison is being made and the information that is available.

Various groups are interested in the performance and financial position of a company.

- (a) **Management** will use comparisons to ensure that the business is performing efficiently and according to plan
- (b) **Employees**, trade unions and so on
- (c) **Government**
- (d) Present and potential **investors** will assess the company with a view to judging whether it is a sound investment
- (e) **Lenders** and **suppliers** will want to judge its creditworthiness

This Text is concerned with financial rather than management accounting and the ratios discussed here are therefore likely to be calculated by external users. The following sources of information are readily available to external users.

- Published accounts and interim statements
- Documents filed as required by company legislation
- Statistics published by the government
- Other published sources eg *Investors Chronicle*, *The Economist*, *Wall Street Journal*

## 5.1 Financial analysis

The **lack of detailed information** available to the outsider is a considerable disadvantage in undertaking ratio analysis. The first difficulty is that there may simply be insufficient data to calculate all of the required ratios. A second concerns the availability of a suitable 'yardstick' with which the calculated ratios may be compared.

### 5.1.1 Inter-temporal analysis

Looking first at inter-temporal or trend analysis (comparisons for the same business over time), some of the **problems** include the following.

- Changes in the nature of the business
- Unrealistic depreciation rates under historical cost accounting
- The changing value of the pound
- Changes in accounting policies

Other factors will include changes in government incentive packages, changes from purchasing equipment to leasing and so on.

### 5.1.2 Cross-sectional analysis

When undertaking 'cross-sectional' analysis (making comparisons with other companies) the position is even more difficult because of the problem of identifying companies that are comparable. **Comparability** between companies may be impaired due to the following reasons.

- (a) Different degrees of diversification
- (b) Different production and purchasing policies (if an investor was analysing the smaller car manufacturers, he would find that some of them buy in engines from one of the 'majors' while others develop and manufacture their own)
- (c) Different financing policies (eg leasing as opposed to buying)
- (d) Different accounting policies (one of the most serious problems particularly in relation to non-current assets and inventory valuation)
- (e) Different effects of government incentives

The major **intragroup comparison organisations** (whose results are intended for the use of participating companies and are not generally available) go to considerable length to adjust accounts to comparable bases. The external user will rarely be in a position to make such adjustments. Although the position is improved by increases in disclosure requirements direct comparisons between companies will inevitably, on occasion, continue to give rise to misleading results.

## 5.2 Social and political considerations

Social considerations tend to be **short-lived** or 'fashionable' and therefore each set of statements can be affected by a different movement or fad. In recent years, the social aspect much in evidence has been that of environmental issues. Companies have gone for a 'green' image, although this has been more in evidence in glossy pictures than in the accounts themselves.

**Political considerations** may be more far reaching. The regulatory regime may be instituted by statutes, but often self-regulation is encouraged through bodies such as the stock exchange.

## 5.3 Multinational companies

Multinational companies have great difficulties sometimes because of the need to comply with **legislation** in a large number of countries. As well as different reporting requirements, different rules of incorporation exist, as well as different directors' rules, tax legislation and so on. Sometimes the local rules can be so harsh that companies will avoid them altogether. In California, for example, multinational companies with operations there are taxed on their *world wide* profits, not just their US profits. Local tax regimes may also require information about the group as a whole because of the impact of internal transfer pricing on tax.

Different local reporting requirements will also make **consolidation** more difficult. The results of subsidiaries must be translated, not only to the company's base currency, but also using the accounting rules used by head office. This is a requirement of IASs as 'uniform accounting policies' are called for.

## 5.4 The efficient market hypothesis and stock exchanges

It has been argued that stock markets in the most sophisticated economies, eg the USA, are **efficient capital markets**.

- (a) The prices of securities bought and sold reflect all the relevant information which is available to the buyers and sellers. In other words, share prices change quickly to reflect all new information about future prospects.
- (b) No individual dominates the market.
- (c) Transaction costs are not so high as to discourage trading significantly.

If the stock market is efficient, share prices should vary in a **rational way**, ie reflecting the known profits or losses of a company and the state of return required based on interest rates.

Research in both Britain and the USA has suggested that market prices anticipate mergers several months before they are formally announced, and the conclusion drawn is that the stock market in these countries *do* exhibit **semi-strong efficiency**. It has also been argued that the market displays sufficient efficiency for investors to see through 'window dressing' of accounts by companies which use accounting conventions to overstate profits (ie creative accounting).

Evidence suggests that stock markets show efficiency that is **at least weak form**, but tending more towards a semi-strong form. In other words, current share prices reflect all or most publicly available information about companies and their securities. However, it is very difficult to assess the market's efficiency in relation to shares which are not usually actively traded.

**Fundamental analysis** and **technical analysis** carried out by analysts and investment managers play an important role in creating an efficient stock market. This is because an efficient market depends on the widespread availability of cheap information about companies, their shares and market conditions, and this is what the firms of market makers and other financial institutions *do* provide for their clients and for the general investing public. In a market which demonstrates strong-form efficiency, such analysis would not identify profitable opportunities, ie where shares are undervalued, because such information would already be known and reflected in the share price.

On the other hand stock market crashes raise serious questions about the validity of the **fundamental theory of share values** and the efficient market hypothesis. If these theories are correct, how can shares that were valued at one level on one day suddenly be worth 40% less the next day, without any change in expectations of corporate profits and dividends? On the other hand, a widely feared crash may fail to happen, suggesting that stock markets may not be altogether out of touch with the underlying values of companies.

## 5.5 Insider dealing

In theory, the rules of various countries on **insider dealing** should limit the efficiency of the capital markets to semi-strong form.

## Key term

**Insider dealing** is dealing in securities while in possession of insider information as an insider, the securities being price-affected by the information. Off-market transactions between or involving 'professional intermediaries' may be included, not just transactions on a designated exchange.

There are various possible anti-avoidance measures, including disclosure of information to other parties.

### Examples of securities

- (a) Shares or stock in the share capital of a company
- (b) Debt securities (eg gilts)
- (c) All forms of warrants, depository receipts, options, futures, contracts for differences based on individual securities or an index

**Insider information** is 'price-sensitive information' relating to a particular issue of securities that are price-affected and not to securities generally; it must be specific or precise and, if made public, be likely to have a significant effect on price.

**General defences** may be available where the individual concerned can show that:

- (a) He did not expect there to be a profit or avoidance of loss,
- (b) He had reasonable grounds to believe that the information had been disclosed widely, or
- (c) He would have done what he did even if he had not had the information, for example where securities are sold to pay a pressing debt.

In order to avoid false markets in shares and to keep investors and their advisors properly informed, listed companies should notify the relevant stock exchange of any **necessary information**. This is then public knowledge. More specific requirements may include the following.

- Preliminary announcements of profits and losses
- Major acquisitions
- Redemption of debt capital
- Changes in nature of business
- Proposals to purchase own shares
- Declaration of dividends

To publish information quickly is an effective way of reducing the opportunity for insider dealing.

The evil of insider dealing is obvious enough. On the other hand some **reasonable limits** have to be set on the prohibition on insider dealing. There are practical problems in applying rules on insider dealing. In particular, it is doubtful whether a director of a public company, who receives confidential information (say management accounts) at each board meeting, is ever in a position to deal in securities of his company without technical infringement of insider dealing rules.

## 5.6 The broad categories of ratios

### FAST FORWARD

Much of the material here on **ratios** should be revision for you. The next few chapters will cover much more complicated aspects of financial analysis.

Make sure that you can **define** all the ratios. Look out for variations in definitions of ratios which might appear in questions.

Ratio analysis involves **comparing one figure against another** to produce a ratio, and assessing whether the ratio indicates a weakness or strength in the company's affairs.

### Exam focus point

You are unlikely to be asked to calculate many ratios in the P2 exam, or not directly at any rate. If, say, you were asked to comment on a company's past or potential future performance, you would be expected to select your own ratios in order to do so. The skill here is picking the key ratios in the context of the question and not calculating a lot of useless ratios.

Broadly speaking, basic ratios can be grouped into five categories.

- Profitability and return
- Long-term solvency and stability
- Short-term solvency and liquidity
- Efficiency (turnover ratios)
- Shareholders' investment ratios

Ratio analysis on its own is **not sufficient** for interpreting company accounts, and that there are other items of information which should be looked at.

- The content of any **accompanying commentary** on the accounts and other statements
- The age and nature of the **company's assets**
- Current and future **developments** in the company's markets, at home and overseas, recent acquisitions or disposals of a subsidiary by the company
- Any other **noticeable features** of the report and accounts, such as events after the reporting period, contingent liabilities, a qualified auditors' report, the company's taxation position

The following sections summarise what you already know about ratio analysis from your earlier studies. You should then perform the comprehensive questions given in this chapter.

## 5.7 Profitability and return on capital

One profit figure that should be calculated and compared over time is **PBIT, profit before interest and tax**, the amount of profit which the company earned before having to pay interest to the providers of loan capital. By providers of loan capital, we usually mean longer-term loan capital, such as debentures and medium-term bank loans, which will be shown in the statement of financial position as 'non-current liabilities'. Also, tax is affected by unusual variations which have a distorting effect.

Profit before interest and tax is therefore:

- The profit on operating activities before taxation, plus
- Interest charges on long-term loan capital.

Published accounts do not always give sufficient detail on interest payable to determine how much is interest on long-term finance.

### 5.7.1 A warning about comments on profit margin and asset turnover

It might be tempting to think that a high profit margin is good, and a low asset turnover means sluggish trading. In broad terms, this is so. But there is **a trade-off** between profit margin and asset turnover, and you cannot look at one without allowing for the other.

- A high profit margin means a high profit per \$1 of sales, but if this also means that sales prices are high, there is a strong possibility that sales revenue will be depressed, and so asset turnover lower.
- A high asset turnover means that the company is generating a lot of sales, but to do this it might have to keep its prices down and so accept a low profit margin per \$1 of sales.

Knowledge brought forward from earlier studies

#### **Profitability**

*Return on capital employed*

$$\text{ROCE} = \frac{\text{PBIT}}{\text{Capital employed}} = \frac{\text{PBIT}}{\text{Total assets less current liabilities}}$$

When **interpreting** ROCE look for the following.

- How risky is the business?
- How capital intensive is it?
- What ROCE do similar businesses have?

**Problems:** which items to consider to achieve comparability:

- Revaluation reserves
- Policies, eg, R & D
- Bank overdraft: short/long-term liability
- Investments and related income: exclude

The following **considerations** are important.

- Change year to year
- Comparison to similar companies
- Comparison with current market borrowing rates

*Return on equity*

$$\text{ROE} = \frac{\text{Profit after tax and pref div}}{\text{Ordinary share capital + reserves}} \%$$

This gives a more **restricted view** of capital than ROCE, but the same principles apply.

*Secondary ratios*

Profit margin × Asset turnover = ROCE

*Profit margin*

$$\text{Profit margin} = \frac{\text{PBIT}}{\text{Revenue}} \% \quad \text{Gross profit margin} = \frac{\text{Gross profit}}{\text{Revenue}} \%$$

It is useful to compare profit margin to gross profit % to investigate movements which do not match. Take into account:

- Gross profit margin
  - Sales prices, sales volume and sales mix
  - Purchase prices and related costs (discount, carriage etc)
  - Production costs, both direct (materials, labour) and indirect (overheads both fixed and variable)
  - Inventory levels and inventory valuation, including errors, cut-off and stock-out costs
- Net profit margin
  - Sales expenses in relation to sales levels
  - Administrative expenses, including salary levels
  - Distribution expenses in relation to sales levels

Depreciation should be considered as a separate item for each expense category.

*Asset turnover*

$$\text{Asset turnover} = \frac{\text{Revenue}}{\text{Total assets less current liabilities}}$$

This measures the **efficiency** of the use of assets. Amend to just non-current assets for capital intensive businesses.

## 5.8 Liquidity and working capital

Profitability is of course an important aspect of a company's performance and debt or gearing is another. Neither, however, addresses directly the key issue of liquidity in the **short term**.

**Liquidity** is the amount of cash a company can put its hands on quickly to settle its debts (and possibly to meet other unforeseen demands for cash payments too). Liquid funds consist of the following.



- Cash
- Short-term investments for which there is a ready market (as distinct from shares held in subsidiaries or associated companies)
- Fixed-term deposits with a bank (eg a six month high-interest deposit)
- Trade receivables (because they will pay what they owe within a short period of time)
- Bills of exchange receivable (because these represent cash due to be received within a relatively short period of time)

A company can obtain liquid assets from sources other than sales, such as the issue of shares for cash, a new loan or the sale of long-term assets. But a company cannot rely on these at all times, and in general obtaining liquid funds depends on making sales and profits. Even so, **profits do not always lead to increases in liquidity**. This is mainly because funds generated from trading may be immediately invested in long-term assets or paid out as dividends.

**Efficiency ratios** indicate how well a business is controlling aspects of its working capital.

Knowledge brought forward from earlier studies

### ***Liquidity and working capital***

This was very topical in the late 1980s as interest rates were high, and there was a recession. Can a company meet its short-term debts?

#### ***Current ratio***

$$\text{Current ratio} = \frac{\text{Current assets}}{\text{Current liabilities}}$$

Assume assets realised at book value ∴ theoretical. 2:1 acceptable? 1.5:1? It depends on the industry.

#### ***Quick ratio***

$$\text{Quick ratio (acid test)} = \frac{\text{Current assets} - \text{Inventory}}{\text{Current liabilities}}$$

Eliminates illiquid and subjectively valued inventory. Care is needed: it could be high if **overtrading** with receivables, but no cash. Is 1:1 OK? Many supermarkets operate on 0.3.

#### ***Collection period***

$$\text{Average collection period} = \frac{\text{Trade receivables}}{\text{Credit turnover}} \times 365$$

Is it **consistent** with quick/current ratio? If not, investigate.

#### ***Inventory turnover period***

$$\text{Inventory turnover} = \frac{\text{Cost of sales}}{\text{Inventory}} \quad \text{Inventory turnover period} = \frac{\text{Inventory}}{\text{Cost of sales}} \times 365$$

Higher the better? But remember:

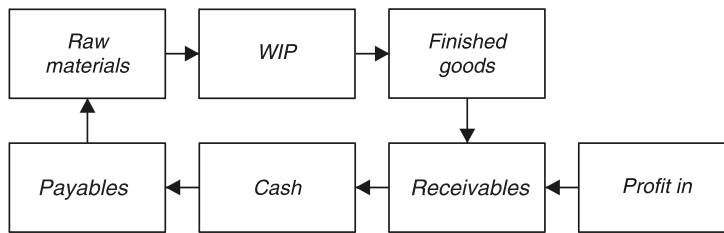
- Lead times
- Seasonal fluctuations in orders
- Alternative uses of warehouse space
- Bulk buying discounts
- Likelihood of inventory perishing or becoming obsolete

#### ***Accounts payable payment period***

$$\text{Accounts payable payment period} = \frac{\text{Trade payables}}{\text{Purchases}} \times 365$$

Use **cost of sales** if purchases are not disclosed.

### Cash cycle



- Cash flow timing does not match sales/cost of sales timing as credit is taken
- Holding stock delays the time between payments for goods and sales receipts

### Reasons for changes in liquidity

- **Credit control** efficiency altered
- Altering **payment period** of creditors as a source of funding
- Reduce **stock holdings** to maintain liquidity

## 5.9 Long-term solvency: debt and gearing/leverage

Debt and gearing ratios are concerned with a company's **long-term stability**: how much the company owes in relation to its size, whether it is getting into heavier debt or improving its situation, and whether its debt burden seems heavy or light.

- When a company is heavily in debt, banks and other potential lenders may be unwilling to advance further funds.
- When a company is earning only a modest profit before interest and tax, and has a heavy debt burden, there will be very little profit left (if any) over for shareholders after the interest charges have been paid. And so if interest rates were to go up (on bank overdrafts and so on) or the company were to borrow even more, it might soon be incurring interest charges in excess of PBIT. This might eventually lead to the liquidation of the company.

### Debt and gearing/leverage

#### Debt/equity

$$\text{Debt/equity ratio} = \frac{\text{Interest bearing net debt}}{\text{Shareholders' funds}} \% (> 100\% = \text{high})$$

$$\text{Or } \frac{\text{Interest bearing net debt}}{\text{Shareholders' funds} + \text{interest bearing net debt}} \% (> 50\% = \text{high})$$

There is **no definitive answer**; elements included are subjective. The following could have an impact.

- Convertible loan stock
- Preferred shares
- Deferred tax
- Goodwill and development expenditure capitalisation
- Revaluation reserve

#### Gearing/leverage

$$\text{Gearing ratio} = \frac{\text{Prior charge capital}}{\text{Total capital}} \quad \text{Leverage} = \frac{\text{Total capital}}{\text{Prior charge capital}}$$

*Interest cover*

$$\text{Interest cover} = \frac{\text{PBIT (including interest receivable)}}{\text{Interest payable}}$$

Is this a better way to **measure gearing or leverage**? Company must generate enough profit to cover interest. Is a figure of 3+ safe?

### 5.9.1 The implications of high or low gearing

Gearing or leverage is, amongst other things, an attempt to quantify the **degree of risk** involved in holding equity shares in a company, both in terms of the company's ability to remain in business and in terms of expected ordinary dividends from the company. The problem with a highly geared company is that, by definition, there is a lot of debt. Debt generally carries a fixed rate of interest (or fixed rate of dividend if in the form of preferred shares), hence there is a given (and large) amount to be paid out from profits to holders of debt before arriving at a residue available for distribution to the holders of equity.

The more highly geared the company, the greater the risk that little (if anything) will be available to distribute by way of dividend to the ordinary shareholders. The more highly geared the company, the greater the percentage change in profit available for ordinary shareholders for any given percentage change in profit before interest and tax. The relationship similarly holds when profits increase. This means that there will be greater **volatility** of amounts available for ordinary shareholders, and presumably therefore greater volatility in dividends paid to those shareholders, where a company is highly geared. That is the risk. You may do extremely well or extremely badly without a particularly large movement in the PBIT of the company.

The risk of a company's ability to remain in business was referred to earlier. Gearing is relevant to this. A highly geared company has a large amount of interest to pay annually. If those borrowings are 'secured' in any way (and debentures in particular are secured), then the holders of the debt are perfectly entitled to force the company to realise assets to pay their interest if funds are not available from other sources. Clearly, the more highly geared a company, the more likely this is to occur when and if profits fall. Note that problems related to **off balance sheet finance** hiding the level of gearing have gradually become rarer, due to standards such as IAS 17 (on leasing).

Companies will only be able to increase their gearing if they have **suitable assets** to offer for security. Companies with assets which are depreciated rapidly or which are at high risk of obsolescence will be unable to offer sufficient security, eg computer software companies. On the other hand, a property company will have plenty of assets to offer as security whose value is fairly stable (but note the effect of a property slump).

Ideally, the following **gearing profiles** would apply, so that only certain types of company could have higher gearing.

| Type of company         | Assets                    | Profits               |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Highly geared companies | Holding value, long-term  | Stable, steady trends |
| Low geared companies    | Rapid depreciation/change | Erratic, volatile     |

### 5.9.2 The effect of GAAP on gearing/leverage

**Variations in accounting policy** can have a significant impact on gearing and it will be necessary to consider the individual policies of companies. The main areas which are likely to require consideration are as follows.

- (a) Revaluation of non-current assets will have an impact on equity and it will be necessary to consider the frequency of such revaluations.
- (b) Assets held under leases may be excluded from a company's statement of financial position if the leases are classified as operating leases.
- (c) The structure of group accounts and methods of consolidation will also have a substantial impact on gearing.

## 5.10 Shareholders' investment ratios

These are the ratios which help equity shareholders and other investors to assess the value and quality of an investment in the **ordinary shares** of a company.

The value of an investment in ordinary shares in a **listed company** is its market value, and so investment ratios must have regard not only to information in the company's published accounts, but also to the current price.

Earnings per share is a valuable indicator of an ordinary share's performance and you should refer to Section 3 of this Chapter to revise its calculation.

Knowledge brought forward from earlier studies

### *Investors' ratios*

#### *Dividend yield*

$$\text{Dividend yield} = \frac{\text{Div per share}}{\text{Mid - market price}} \%$$

- **Low yield:** the company retains a large proportion of profits to reinvest
- **High yield:** this is a risky company or slow-growing

#### *Dividend cover*

$$\text{Dividend cover} = \frac{\text{EPS}}{\text{Net div per share}}$$

Or 
$$\frac{\text{Profit after tax and pref div}}{\text{Div on ordinary shares}}$$

This shows **how safe the dividend is**, or the extent of profit retention. Variations are due to maintaining dividend when profits are declining.

#### *P/E ratio*

$$\text{P/E ratio} = \frac{\text{Mid - market price}}{\text{EPS}}$$

The **higher the better** here: it reflects the confidence of the market. A rise in EPS will cause an increase in P/E ratio, but maybe not to same extent: look at the context of the market and industry norms.

#### *Earnings yield*

$$\text{Earnings yield} = \frac{\text{EPS}}{\text{Mid - market price}}$$

This shows the dividend yield if there is no retention of profit. It allows you to compare companies with **different dividend policies**, showing growth rather than earnings.

#### *Net assets per share*

$$\text{Net assets per share} = \frac{\text{Net assets}}{\text{No of shares}}$$

This is a **crude measure** of value of a company, liable to distortion.

See also **EPS** and **dividend per share**.

Always remember that 'profit' and 'net assets' are fairly **arbitrary figures**, affected by different accounting policies and manipulation.

Financial analysis is a vital tool for **auditors**.



## Question

## Ratio analysis report

RST Co is considering purchasing an interest in its competitor XYZ Co. The managing director of RST Co has obtained the three most recent statements of comprehensive income and statements of financial position of XYZ Co as shown below.

XYZ CO

### STATEMENTS OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER

|                                    | 20X6   | 20X7   | 20X8   |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                    | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Revenue                            | 18,000 | 18,900 | 19,845 |
| Cost of sales                      | 10,440 | 10,340 | 11,890 |
| Gross profit                       | 7,560  | 8,560  | 7,955  |
| Distribution costs                 | 1,565  | 1,670  | 1,405  |
| Administrative expenses            | 1,409  | 1,503  | 1,591  |
| Operating profit                   | 4,586  | 5,387  | 4,959  |
| Interest payable on bank overdraft | 104    | 215    | 450    |
| Interest payable on 12% debentures | 600    | 600    | 600    |
| Profit before taxation             | 3,882  | 4,572  | 3,909  |
| Income tax                         | 1,380  | 2,000  | 1,838  |
| Profit after taxation              | 2,502  | 2,572  | 2,071  |

XYZ CO

### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER

|                                | 20X6   |        | 20X7   |        | 20X8   |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| <b>Assets</b>                  |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Non-current assets</b>      |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Land and buildings             | 11,460 |        | 12,121 |        | 11,081 |        |
| Plant and machinery            | 8,896  |        | 9,020  |        | 9,130  |        |
|                                |        | 20,356 |        | 21,141 |        | 20,211 |
| <b>Current assets</b>          |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Inventory                      | 1,775  |        | 2,663  |        | 3,995  |        |
| Trade receivables              | 1,440  |        | 2,260  |        | 3,164  |        |
| Cash                           | 50     |        | 53     |        | 55     |        |
|                                |        | 3,265  |        | 4,976  |        | 7,214  |
|                                |        | 23,621 |        | 26,117 |        | 27,425 |
| <b>Equity and liabilities</b>  |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Equity</b>                  |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Share capital                  | 8,000  |        | 8,000  |        | 8,000  |        |
| Retained earnings              | 6,434  |        | 7,313  |        | 7,584  |        |
|                                |        | 14,434 |        | 15,313 |        | 15,584 |
| <b>Non-current liabilities</b> |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 12% debentures 20Y1 – 20Y4     |        | 5,000  |        | 5,000  |        | 5,000  |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>     |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Trade payables                 | 390    |        | 388    |        | 446    |        |
| Bank                           | 1,300  |        | 2,300  |        | 3,400  |        |
| Taxation                       | 897    |        | 1,420  |        | 1,195  |        |
| Dividend payable               | 1,600  |        | 1,696  |        | 1,800  |        |
|                                |        | 4,187  |        | 5,804  |        | 6,841  |
|                                |        | 23,621 |        | 26,117 |        | 27,425 |

### *Required*

Prepare a report for the managing director of RST Co commenting on the financial position of XYZ Co and highlighting any areas that require further investigation.

(Marks will be awarded for ratios and other financial statistics where appropriate.)

## Answer

To: MD of RST Co  
From: An Accountant  
Date: XX.XX.XX  
Subject: *The financial position of XYZ Co*

### *Introduction*

This report has been prepared on the basis of the three most recent statements of comprehensive income and statement of financial position of XYZ Co covering the years 20X6 to 20X8 inclusive. Ratio analysis used in this report is based on the calculations shown in the appendix attached.

### *Performance*

Sales have increased at a steady 5% per annum over the three-year period.

In contrast, the gross profit percentage has increased from 42% in 20X6 to 45% in 20X7 before dropping back to 40% in 20X8. Similarly, operating profit as a percentage of sales was 26% in 20X6, 28.5% in 20X7 and 25% in 20X8. This may indicate some misallocation of costs between 20X7 and 20X8 and should be investigated or it may be indicative of a longer downward trend in profitability.

Return on capital employed, as one would expect, has shown a similar pattern with an increase in 20X7 with a subsequent fall in 20X8 to a level below that of 20X6.

### *Debt and liquidity*

The debt ratio measures the ratio of a company's total debt to its total assets. Although we have no information as to the norm for the industry as a whole, the debt ratios appear reasonable. However, it should be noted that it has risen steadily over the three year period.

When reviewing XYZ Co's liquidity the situation has improved over the period. The current ratio measures a company's ability to meet its current liabilities out of current assets. A ratio of at least 1 should therefore be expected. XYZ Co did not meet this expectation in 20X6 and 20X7.

This ratio can be misleading as inventory is included in current assets. Because inventory can take some time to convert into liquid assets a second ratio, the quick ratio, is calculated which excludes inventory. As can be seen, the quick ratio, although improving, is low and this shows that current liabilities cannot be met from current assets if inventory is excluded. As a major part of current liabilities is the bank overdraft, the company is obviously relying on the bank's continuing support with short-term funding. It would be useful to find out the terms of the bank funding and the projected cash flow requirements for future funding.

### *Efficiency ratios*

The efficiency ratios, receivables ratio and inventory turnover, give a useful indication of how the company is managing its current assets.

As can be seen from the appendix the debtors collection period has increased over the three years from 29 days to 58 days. This may indicate that the company is failing to follow up its debts efficiently or that it has given increased credit terms to some or all of its customers.

Looking at inventory turnover, this has also risen from 62 days to 122 days. This may be an indication of over-stocking, stocking up on the expectation of a substantial sales increase or the holding of obsolete or slow-moving inventory items which should be written down. More investigation needs to be done on both receivables and inventory.

The financing of additional receivables and inventory has been achieved in the main through the bank overdraft as the trade payables figure has not increased significantly.

### Conclusion

The review of the three-year financial statements for XYZ Co has given rise to a number of queries which need to be resolved before a useful conclusion can be reached on the financial position of XYZ Co. It may also be useful to compare XYZ Co's ratios to those of other companies in the same industry in order to obtain some idea of the industry norms.

### APPENDIX TO MEMORANDUM

|                                   | 20X6   | 20X7  | 20X8  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| % sales increase                  |  | 5%  | 5%  |
| Gross profit %                    | 42%  | 45%   | 40%   |
| Operating profit %                | 25.5%  | 28.5%   | 25%   |
| <i>Return on capital employed</i> |  |   |   |
| =                                 | $\frac{\text{Profit before interest and tax}}{\text{Capital employed}} \times 100\%$ | $\frac{4,586 - 104}{14,434 + 5,000} = 23\%$     | $\frac{5,387 - 215}{15,313 + 5,000} = 25.5\%$   |
|                                   |  | $\frac{4,959 - 450}{15,584 + 5,000} = 21.9\%$   |   |
| <i>Debt ratio</i>                 |  |   |   |
| =                                 | $\frac{\text{Total debt}}{\text{Total assets}} \times 100\%$                         | $\frac{4,187 + 5,000}{20,356 + 3,265} = 38.9\%$ | $\frac{5,804 + 5,000}{21,114 + 4,976} = 41.4\%$ |
|                                   |  | $\frac{6,841 + 5,000}{20,211 + 7,214} = 43.2\%$ |   |
| <i>Current ratio</i>              |  |   |   |
| =                                 | $\frac{\text{Current assets}}{\text{Current liabilities}}$                           | $\frac{3,265}{4,187} = 0.78$                    | $\frac{4,976}{5,804} = 0.86$                    |
|                                   |  | $\frac{7,214}{6,814} = 1.06$                    |   |
| <i>Quick ratio</i>                |  |   |   |
| =                                 | $\frac{\text{Current assets} - \text{inventory}}{\text{Current liabilities}}$        | $\frac{3,265 - 1,775}{4,187} = 0.36$            | $\frac{4,976 - 2,663}{5,804} = 0.40$            |
|                                   |  | $\frac{7,214 - 3,995}{6,814} = 0.47$            |   |
| <i>Receivables ratio</i>          |  |   |   |
| =                                 | $\frac{\text{Trade receivables}}{\text{Sales}} \times 365 \text{ days}$              | $\frac{1,440}{18,000} = 29.2 \text{ days}$      | $\frac{2,260}{18,900} = 43.6 \text{ days}$      |
|                                   |  | $\frac{3,164}{19,845} = 58.2 \text{ days}$      |   |
| <i>Inventory turnover</i>         |  |   |   |
| =                                 | $\frac{\text{Inventory}}{\text{Cost of sales}} \times 365 \text{ days}$              | $\frac{1,775}{10,440} = 62 \text{ days}$        | $\frac{2,663}{10,340} = 94 \text{ days}$        |
|                                   |  | $\frac{3,995}{11,890} = 122.6 \text{ days}$     |   |



You are the management accountant of Fry Co. Laurie Co is a competitor in the same industry and it has been operating for 20 years. Summaries of Laurie Co's statements of comprehensive income and financial position for the previous three years are given below.

**SUMMARISED STATEMENTS OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER**

|   | 20X6 | 20X7 | 20X8 |
|---|------|------|------|
|   | \$m  | \$m  | \$m  |
| Revenue   | 840  | 981  | 913  |
| Cost of sales                                     | 554  | 645  | 590  |
| Gross profit                                      | 286  | 336  | 323  |
| Selling, distribution and administration expenses | 186  | 214  | 219  |
| Profit before interest                            | 100  | 122  | 104  |
| Interest  | 6    | 15   | 19   |
| Profit before taxation                            | 94   | 107  | 85   |
| Taxation  | 45   | 52   | 45   |
| Profit after taxation                             | 49   | 55   | 40   |
| Dividends   | 24   | 24   | 24   |

**SUMMARISED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER**

|                                   | 20X6 | 20X7 | 20X8 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|
|                                   | \$m  | \$m  | \$m  |
| <i>Assets</i>                     |      |      |      |
| Non-current assets                |      |      |      |
| Intangible assets                 | 36   | 40   | 48   |
| Tangible assets at net book value | 176  | 206  | 216  |
|                                   | 212  | 246  | 264  |
| Current assets                    |      |      |      |
| Inventories                       | 237  | 303  | 294  |
| Receivables                       | 105  | 141  | 160  |
| Bank                              | 52   | 58   | 52   |
|                                   | 606  | 748  | 770  |
| <i>Equity and liabilities</i>     |      |      |      |
| Equity                            |      |      |      |
| Ordinary share capital            | 100  | 100  | 100  |
| Retained earnings                 | 299  | 330  | 346  |
|                                   | 399  | 430  | 446  |
| Non-current liabilities           |      |      |      |
| Long-term loans                   | 74   | 138  | 138  |
| Current liabilities               |      |      |      |
| Trade payables                    | 53   | 75   | 75   |
| Other payables                    | 80   | 105  | 111  |
|                                   | 606  | 748  | 770  |

You may assume that the index of retail prices has remained constant between 20X0 and 20X2.

*Required*

Write a report to the finance director of Fry Co:

- Analysing the performance of Laurie Co and showing any calculations in an appendix to this report.
- Summarising five areas which require further investigation, including reference to other pieces of information which would complement your analysis of the performance of Laurie Co.



- (a) To: Finance Director  
 From: Management accountant  
 Subject: *Performance of Laurie Co 20X6 to 20X8*

An appendix is attached to this report which shows the ratios calculated as part of the performance review.

#### *Profitability*

The gross profit margin has remained relatively static over the three year period, although it has risen by approximately 1% in 20X8. ROCE, while improving very slightly in 20X7 to 21.5% has dropped dramatically in 20X8 to 17.8%. The net profit margin has also fallen in 20X8, in spite of the improvement in the gross profit margin. This marks a rise in expenses which suggests that they are not being well controlled. The utilisation of assets compared to the turnover generated has also declined reflecting the drop in trading activity between 20X7 and 20X8.

#### *Trading levels*

It is apparent that there was a dramatic increase in trading activity between 20X7 and 20X8, but then a significant fall in 20X8. Revenue rose by 17% in 20X7 but fell by 7% in 20X8. The reasons for this fluctuation are unclear. It may be the effect of some kind of one-off event, or it may be the effect of a change in product mix. Whatever the reason, it appears that improved credit terms granted to customers (receivables payment period up from 46 to 64 days) has not stopped the drop in sales.

#### *Working capital*

Both the current ratio and quick ratio demonstrate an adequate working capital situation, although the quick ratio has shown a slight decline. There has been an increased investment over the period in inventories and receivables which has been only partly financed by longer payment periods to trade payables and a rise in other payables (mainly between 20X6 and 20X7).

#### *Capital structure*

The level of gearing of the company increased when a further \$64m was raised in long-term loans in 20X7 to add to the \$74m already in the statement of financial position. Although this does not seem to be a particularly high level of gearing, the debt/equity ratio did rise from 18.5% to 32.0% in 20X7. The interest charge has risen to \$19m from \$6m in 20X6. The 20X7 charge was \$15m, suggesting that either the interest rate on the loan is flexible, or that the full interest charge was not incurred in 20X7. The new long-term loan appears to have funded the expansion in both fixed and current assets in 20X7.

#### APPENDIX

| Ratio                             | Working | 20X6  | 20X7  | 20X8  |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| Gross profit margin               | (1)     | 34.0% | 34.3% | 35.4% |
| ROCE                              | (2)     | 21.1% | 21.5% | 17.8% |
| Profit margin                     | (3)     | 11.9% | 12.4% | 11.4% |
| Assets turnover                   | (4)     | 1.78  | 1.73  | 1.56  |
| Gearing ratio                     | (5)     | 15.6% | 24.3% | 23.6% |
| Debt/equity ratio                 | (6)     | 18.5% | 32.0% | 30.9% |
| Interest cover                    | (7)     | 16.7  | 8.1   | 5.5   |
| Current ratio                     | (8)     | 3.0   | 2.8   | 2.7   |
| Quick ratio                       | (9)     | 1.2   | 1.1   | 1.1   |
| Receivables payment period (days) | (10)    | 46    | 52    | 64    |
| Inventory turnover period (days)  | (11)    | 156   | 171   | 182   |
| Payables turnover period          | (12)    | 35    | 42    | 46    |

Workings (all in \$m)

|                               | 20X6                         | 20X7                         | 20X8                         |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Gross profit margin         | $\frac{286}{840}$            | $\frac{336}{981}$            | $\frac{323}{913}$            |
| 2 ROCE *                      | $\frac{100}{473}$            | $\frac{122}{568}$            | $\frac{104}{584}$            |
| 3 Profit margin               | $\frac{100}{840}$            | $\frac{122}{981}$            | $\frac{104}{913}$            |
| 4 Assets turnover             | $\frac{840}{473}$            | $\frac{981}{568}$            | $\frac{913}{584}$            |
| 5 Gearing ratio               | $\frac{74}{74 + 399}$        | $\frac{138}{138 + 430}$      | $\frac{138}{138 + 446}$      |
| 6 Debt/equity ratio           | $\frac{74}{399}$             | $\frac{138}{430}$            | $\frac{138}{446}$            |
| 7 Interest cover              | $\frac{100}{6}$              | $\frac{122}{15}$             | $\frac{104}{19}$             |
| 8 Current ratio               | $\frac{394}{133}$            | $\frac{502}{180}$            | $\frac{506}{186}$            |
| 9 Quick ratio                 | $\frac{157}{133}$            | $\frac{199}{180}$            | $\frac{212}{186}$            |
| 10 Receivables payment period | $\frac{105}{840} \times 365$ | $\frac{141}{981} \times 365$ | $\frac{160}{913} \times 365$ |
| 11 Inventory turnover period  | $\frac{237}{554} \times 365$ | $\frac{303}{645} \times 365$ | $\frac{294}{590} \times 365$ |
| 12 Payables payment period    | $\frac{53}{554} \times 365$  | $\frac{75}{645} \times 365$  | $\frac{75}{590} \times 365$  |

\* ROCE has been calculated here as:

$$\frac{\text{Profit on ordinary activities before interest and taxation (PBIT)}}{\text{Capital employed}}$$

where capital employed = shareholders' funds plus payables falling due after one year and any long-term provision for liabilities and charges. It is possible to calculate ROCE using net profit after taxation and interest, but this admits variations and distortions into the ratio which are not affected by *trading* activity.

(b) Areas for further investigation include the following.

(i) *Long-term loan*

There is no indication as to why this loan was raised and how it was used to finance the business. Further details are needed of interest rate(s), security given and repayment dates.

(ii) *Trading activity*

The level of sales has fluctuated in quite a strange way and this requires further investigation and explanation. Factors to consider would include pricing policies, product mix, market share and any unique occurrence which would affect sales.

(iii) *Further breakdown*

It would be useful to break down some of the information in the financial statements, perhaps into a management accounting format. Examples would include the following.

- (1) Sales by segment, market or geographical area
- (2) Cost of sales split, into raw materials, labour and overheads
- (3) Inventory broken down into raw materials, work in progress and finished goods
- (4) Expenses analysed between administrative expenses, sales and distribution costs

(iv) *Accounting policies*

Accounting policies may have a significant effect on certain items. In particular, it would be useful to know what the accounting policies are in relation to intangible assets (and what these assets consist of), and whether there has been any change in accounting policies.

(v) *Dividend policy*

The company has maintained the level of dividend paid to shareholders (although it has not been raised during the three year period). Presumably the company would have been able to reduce the amount of long-term debt taken on if it had retained part or all of the dividend during this period. It would be interesting to examine the share price movement during the period and calculate the dividend cover.

*Tutorial note.* Other matters raised could have included:

- (1) Working capital problems, particularly inventory turnover and control over receivables
- (2) EPS (which cannot be calculated here as the number of shares is not given) and other related investor statistics, such as the P/E ratio.

## 6 Impact of changes in accounting standards and policies

12/08

FAST FORWARD

Accounting policies may be adopted for the purpose of **manipulation**.

**Changes in accounting standards** can have a significant impact on the financial statements.

We discussed the disclosure of accounting policies in your earlier studies. The choice of accounting policy and the effect of its implementation are almost as important as its disclosure in that the results of a company can be altered significantly by the choice of accounting policy.

### 6.1 The effect of choice of accounting policies

Where accounting standards allow alternative treatment of items in the accounts, then the accounting policy note should declare which policy has been chosen. It should then be applied consistently.

Consider, though, the **radically different effects produced by the different treatment of some items**. An example is the treatment of joint ventures, which may be proportionally consolidated or equity accounted.

You should be able to think of other examples of how the choice of accounting policy can affect the financial statements.

### 6.2 Changes in accounting policy

The effect of a change of accounting policy is treated as a retrospective adjustment to the opening balance of each affected component of equity, as if the accounting policy had always applied.

IAS 8 (revised) states that changes in accounting policies are rare, and only allowed if **required by statute** or if the change results in **more reliable and relevant information**.

There is still some scope for directors to **manipulate the results** through change(s) of accounting policies. This would be done to avoid the effect of an old accounting policy or gain the effect of a new one. It is likely to be done in a sensitive period, perhaps when the company's profits are low or the company is about to announce a rights issue. The management would have to convince the auditors that the new policy was much better, but it is not difficult to produce reasons in such cases.

The effect of such a change is **very short-term**. Most analysts and sophisticated users will discount its effect immediately, except to the extent that it will affect any dividend (because of the effect on

distributable profits). It may help to avoid breaches of banking covenants because of the effect on certain ratios.

Obviously, the accounting policy for any item in the accounts could only be changed once in quite a long period of time. No auditors would allow another change, even back to the old policy, unless there was a wholly exceptional reason.

The managers of a company can choose accounting policies **initially** to suit the company or the type of results they want to get. Any changes in accounting policy must be justified, but some managers might try to change accounting policies just to manipulate the results.

## 6.3 Changes in accounting standards

### FAST FORWARD

You will probably be asked to **advise the directors** on the implication of a change in accounting standards, or on the effect of using the correct accounting treatment.

The effect of a change of accounting standard can be far reaching. For example when IFRS 3 *Business combinations* was brought in, goodwill arising on consolidation could no longer be amortised, but had to be reviewed annually for impairment. Impairment tests are more subjective than amortisation, although both methods have their drawbacks. Further significant amendments in the area of business combinations are proposed.

## 6.4 The impact of change and the P2 examination

This topic has been examined regularly as the 'ethical' part of the longer case study question in Section A. Usually you will be in the position of advising the directors. The directors may have adopted an accounting treatment that is incorrect. You will need to advise them of the correct accounting treatment and show, usually with supporting calculations, the effect on the financial statements of adopting the correct treatment.

Ethics are an important aspect of the ACCA's qualification. If the directors, in adopting certain accounting treatments, are acting unethically, you may need to discuss this. This happened in Question 1 of the Pilot paper.

Alternatively the treatment may not be wrong, but a matter of accounting policy which the directors wish to change. As before, you will be asked to explain, with supporting calculations, the effect of the change.

You are very likely to be asked to explain the significance of a proposed change in accounting standards in Question 4, which may include a numerical element.

## 6.5 Practise case study questions

The impact of change in standards, policies or treatment is unlikely to comprise a whole question. It is more likely to come up as part of a longer question. For example, it may come up as part of the compulsory 50-mark case study question, the first part of which will always be on groups. You should therefore practise this type of question. Have a go at the question Wingit in the Exam Question Bank. Further questions of this type can be found in BPP's Practice & Revision Kit for this Paper.

### Exam focus point

Case study questions to try: Planet, Wingit and the case study questions in the Practice and Revision Kit. The December 2008 paper had a question on accounting standards and disclosures, which required students to think broadly.

# 7 Accounting theory and practice

## 7.1 The nature of profit

We have seen throughout this Text that accounting 'profit' is an arbitrary figure, subject to the whims and biases of accountants and the variety of treatments in accounting standards. Go back to the contents page

and pick out all the topics which demonstrate or indicate how company results are manipulated. Isn't it nearly all of them? Let us briefly mention some of them again.

### 7.1.1 IAS 2 Inventories

Companies are allowed to use different methods of valuing inventory under IAS 2, which means that the final inventory figure in the statement of financial position will be different under each method. Profit will be affected by the closing inventory valuation, particularly where the level of inventory fluctuates to a great extent.

### 7.1.2 IAS 16 Property, plant and equipment

As with IAS 2, IAS 16 allows different accounting bases for depreciation. Choosing to use the reducing balance method rather than the straight line method can front-load the depreciation charge for assets. It is also the case that the subjectivity surrounding the estimated economic lives of assets can lead to manipulation of profits. (Note. Remember that some companies refuse to depreciate some assets at all – mainly freehold property.)

## 7.2 Other problems with financial analysis

Two frequent problems affecting financial analysis are discussed here.

- Seasonal fluctuations
- Window dressing

### 7.2.1 Seasonal fluctuations

Many companies are located in industries where trade is seasonal. For example:

- Firework manufacturers
- Swimwear manufacturers
- Ice cream makers
- Umbrella manufacturers
- Gas companies
- Travel agents
- Flower suppliers and deliverers
- Football clubs

Year on year the seasonal fluctuations affecting such companies does not matter; a year end has to be chosen and as long as the fluctuations are at roughly the same time every year, then there should be no problem. Occasionally a perverse sense of humour will cause a company to choose an accounting period ending in the middle of the busy season: this may affect the cut off because the busy season might be slightly early or late.

A major difficulty can arise if companies affected by seasonal fluctuations change their accounting date. A shorter period (normally) may encompass part, all or none of the busy season. Whatever happens, the figures will be distorted and the comparatives will be meaningless. Analysts would not know how to extrapolate the figures from the shorter period to produce a comparison for the previous year. Weightings could be used, but these are likely to be inaccurate.



### Case Study

An example of the problems this can cause occurred when the UK company British Gas plc changed its accounting period to 31 December from 31 March. The company published two reports and accounts.

- For the year to 31 March 1991
- For the year to 31 December 1991

thus including the first three months of the calendar year in both reports. As a note to the later accounts, the company produced a profit and loss account for the last nine months of the calendar year.

Although the British Gas auditors did not qualify the audit report, the Review Panel was not very happy about this double counting of results. The nine month profit and loss account did not meet the provisions of CA 1985 'either as to its location or its contents, nor did it contain the relevant earnings per share figure'. British Gas had to promise that, in their 1992 results, the 1991 comparative would be for the nine months period only.

The effect here is obvious. The first three months of the calendar year are when British Gas earns a high proportion of its profits (winter!). If the 1991 results had covered the period from 1 April only, then the profits would have been reduced by more than an average loss of three months' profit. By using a 12 month period, British Gas avoided the risk of the period's results looking too bad.

### 7.2.2 Window dressing

Window dressing transactions were made largely redundant by IAS 10 *Events after the reporting period*. Note that window dressing transactions were not outlawed, but full disclosure would render such transactions useless.

One example of window dressing is a situation where a large cheque is written against one group company's positive bank balance in favour of another group company with a large overdraft. The cheque is put through at the year end and then cancelled at the beginning of the next year, thus concealing the overdraft in the consolidated statement of financial position (where positive and negative bank balances cannot be netted off).

You may be able to think of other examples of window dressing and you should look for any potential examples which come up in examination questions.

### Summary of limitations of financial analysis

- (a) Information problems
  - (i) The base information is often out of date, so timeliness of information leads to problems of interpretation
  - (ii) Historic cost information may not be the most appropriate information for the decision for which the analysis is being undertaken
  - (iii) Information in published accounts is generally summarised information and detailed information may be needed
  - (iv) Analysis of accounting information only identifies symptoms not causes and thus is of limited use
- (b) Comparison problems: inter-temporal
  - (i) Effects of price changes make comparisons difficult unless adjustments are made
  - (ii) Impacts of changes in technology on the price of assets, the likely return and the future markets
  - (iii) Impacts of a changing environment on the results reflected in the accounting information
  - (iv) Potential effects of changes in accounting policies on the reported results
  - (v) Problems associated with establishing a normal base year to compare other years with
- (c) Comparison problems: inter-firm
  - (i) Selection of industry norms and the usefulness of norms based on averages
  - (ii) Different firms having different financial and business risk profiles and the impact on analysis
  - (iii) Different firms using different accounting policies
  - (iv) Impacts of the size of the business and its comparators on risk, structure and returns
  - (v) Impacts of different environments on results, for example different countries or home-based versus multinational firms

You should use this summary as a type of checklist.

## 7.3 Is accounting theory too remote?

Even the IASB, which consults and co-operates extensively with practitioners, has been criticised for being an 'ivory tower'. 'Pure' accounting theory or research in a university may seem even more remote to the financial controller, let alone the bookkeeper, working at the 'coal face'.

As far back as 2002, Sauders, Fulkerson, Chau and Welch at the University of Texas wrote (our emphasis):

[S]tudies of practicing accountants' perceptions of accounting journals are limited. Academic peers make tenure, promotion and program standing determinations based upon colleagues' frequency and quality of publication. Hence, academics devote more time to learning about which journals their peers view as prestigious than to assessing journal preferences of practitioners. While researchers pursue the rewards associated with publication in top-ranked journals, some accounting academics and practitioners have expressed concerns regarding the relevance of accounting research (Jonsson 1998, O'Brian 1997) and suggest **a disconnect between accounting research and practice**...[T]he theoretical and statistical significance of many academically prestigious publications is often lost to practicing accountants.

One indication of **the remoteness of accountancy academia** from practice is the fact that many accounting qualifications do not demand an accountancy degree. If you can qualify as an accountant with a degree in philosophy or history, or with no degree at all, how relevant is an accountancy degree to the day-to-day practice of accountants?

### 7.3.1 Users of accounts

**The objective of published financial statements is to satisfy the information needs of users.** Some types of user will always need financial statements as their main source of information about a company. **Companies are normally required to file financial statements with the regulatory authorities** so that a certain amount of information is available to the general public. The government uses financial statements in order to assess taxation and to regulate the activities of businesses.

**Financial reporting has evolved to meet the needs of investors in large public companies and their advisers.** Yet **published financial statements have serious limitations**: they are based on historic information and they only reflect the financial effects of transactions and events. **Investors need to predict a company's future performance**, including changes in shareholder value. These are affected by the development of new products, the quality of management, the use of new technology and the economic and political environment.

Traditional financial statements are **only one of many sources of information used by investors**. Other sources include **market data, product information, quarterly earnings announcements, press conferences and other briefings given by the directors to institutional investors, analysts and financial journalists**.

**Traditional ratio analysis is becoming outdated.** The Association for Investment Management and Research (AIMR) has developed global investment performance standards. These are based on 'total return', which includes realised and unrealised gains and income and rates of return that are adjusted for daily-weighted cash flows. **Earnings per share and the price earnings ratio continue to be important, but analysts now calculate a range of other measures. These include cash flow per share, market value per share and 'consensus earnings per share', which predicts future performance.**

**Free cash flow is a key performance measure used by analysts to value a company.** Free cash flow is cash revenues less cash expenses, taxation paid, cash needed for working capital and cash required for routine capital expenditure. **This can be compared with the cost of capital employed to assess whether shareholder value has increased or decreased.** It can also be projected and discounted to provide an approximate market value.

When it comes to **users of accounts who are not practitioners**, the world of accounting theory may seem even more remote. Such users need to know what the figures mean, or more importantly, what they do not mean. Keynes once said that it is better to be vaguely right than precisely wrong. Arguably, historical cost is precisely wrong, while fair value has more chance of being vaguely right.

**Not all users want or need precise information.** Adherents of the efficient markets hypothesis argue that by the time financial reports are issued most of the important information contained in them has been factored into the share price.

### 7.3.2 Bridging the gap

The following are ways in which the gap between accounting theory and practice could be bridged:

- (a) More consultation with practitioners, particularly from small and medium-sized entities in the standard-setting process
- (b) Less jargon in accounting theory
- (c) Better communication with non-specialist users

## 8 Management commentary – a global Operating and Financial Review?

### FAST FORWARD

Some of the limitations of financial statements may be addressed by a **management commentary**. The IASB has issued a practice statement on a **management commentary** to supplement and complement the financial statements.

### 8.1 Need for management commentary

In the UK, companies have been encouraged to produce an Operating and Financial Review, explaining the main factors underlying a company's financial position and performance, and analysing the main trends affecting this. A Reporting Statement on the OFR was issued in January 2006.

Financial statements alone are not considered sufficient without an **accompanying explanation of the performance**, eg highlighting a restructuring that has reduced profits or the cost of developing a new business channel in the current period which will generate profits in the future.

Perhaps more importantly a good management commentary not only talks about the past position and performance, but how this will translate **into future financial position** and performance.

The *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting* acknowledges, 'general purpose financial reports do not and cannot provide all of the information that existing and potential investors, lenders and other creditors need. Those users need to consider pertinent information from other sources, for example, general economic conditions and expectations, political events and political climate, and industry and company outlooks.' (para OB6)

Typically, larger companies are already making disclosures similar to a management commentary, eg as a 'Director's Report', but the aim of the IASB is **to define internationally what a management commentary** should contain. For example, a good commentary should be balanced and not just highlight the company's successes.

A management commentary would also address **risks and issues** facing the entity that may not be apparent from a review of the financial statements, and how they will be addressed

### 8.2 IFRS Practice Statement

In December 2010, the IASB issued an IFRS Practice Statement *Management Commentary*, which is the international equivalent of the Operating and Financial Review.

The main objective of the Statement is that the IASB can **improve the quality of financial reports** by providing guidance 'for all jurisdictions, on order to promote comparability across entities that present management commentary and to improve entities' communications with their stakeholders'. In preparing this guidance, the team has reviewed existing requirements around the world, such as the OFR,



Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) in the USA and Canada, and the German accounting standard on Management Reporting.

### 8.2.1 Scope

The IASB has published a **Practice Statement rather than an IFRS** on management commentary. This 'provides a broad, non-binding framework for the presentation of management commentary that relates to financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with IFRSs'.

This guidance is designed for publicly traded entities, but it would **be left to regulators to decide** who would be required to publish management commentary.

This approach avoids the **adoption hurdle**, ie that the perceived cost of applying IFRSs might increase, which could otherwise dissuade jurisdictions/ countries not having adopted IFRSs from requiring its adoption, especially where requirements differ significantly from existing national requirements.

### 8.2.2 Definition of management commentary

The following preliminary definition is given in the Practice Statement:

#### Key term

**Management commentary** is a **narrative report** that provides a context within which to interpret the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of an entity. It also provides management with an opportunity to explain **its objectives and its strategies** for achieving those objectives.

### 8.2.3 Principles for the preparation of a management commentary

When a management commentary relates to financial statements, then those financial statements should either be provided with the commentary or the commentary should clearly identify the financial statements to which it relates. The management commentary must be clearly distinguished from other information and must state to what extent it has followed the Practice Statement.

Management commentary should follow these principles:

- (a) To provide **management's view** of the entity's performance, position and progress;
- (b) To **supplement and complement** information presented in the financial statements;
- (c) To include **forward-looking information**; and
- (d) To include information that possesses the **qualitative characteristics** described in the *Conceptual Framework* (see [Chapter 1](#)).

### 8.2.4 Elements of management commentary

The Practice Statement says that to meet the objective of management commentary, an entity should include information that is essential to an understanding of:

- (a) The **nature of the business**
- (b) Management's **objectives and its strategies** for meeting those objectives
- (c) The entity's most significant **resources, risks and relationships**
- (d) The **results** of operations and **prospects**
- (e) The critical **performance measures and indicators** that management uses to evaluate the entity's performance against stated objectives

The Practice Statement does not propose a fixed format as the nature of management commentary would vary between entities. It does not provide application guidance or illustrative examples, as this could be interpreted as a floor or ceiling for disclosures. Instead, the IASB anticipates that other parties will produce guidance.

However, the IASB has provided a table relating the five elements listed above to its assessments of the needs of the primary users of a management commentary (existing and potential investors, lenders and creditors).

| Element                             | User needs   |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Nature of the business              | The knowledge of the business in which an entity is engaged and the external environment in which it operates.   |
| Objectives and strategies           | To assess the strategies adopted by the entity and the likelihood that those strategies will be successful in meeting management's stated objectives.  |
| Resources, risks and relationships  | A basis for determining the resources available to the entity as well as obligations to transfer resources to others; the ability of the entity to generate long-term sustainable net inflows of resources; and the risks to which those resource-generating activities are exposed, both in the near term and in the long term. |
| Results and prospects               | The ability to understand whether an entity has delivered results in line with expectations and, implicitly, how well management has understood the entity's market, executed its strategy and managed the entity's resources, risks and relationships.  |
| Performance measures and indicators | The ability to focus on the critical performance measures and indicators that management uses to assess and manage the entity's performance against stated objectives and strategies.  |

### 8.2.5 Advantages and disadvantages of a compulsory management commentary

| Advantages  | Disadvantages  |
|---|--|
| <b>Entity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotes the entity, and attracts investors, lenders, customers and suppliers</li> <li>Communicates management plans and outlook</li> </ul>  | <b>Entity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costs may outweigh benefits</li> <li>Risk that investors may ignore the financial statements</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Users</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial statements not enough to make decisions (financial information only)</li> <li>Financial statements backward looking (need forward looking information)</li> <li>Highlights risks</li> <li>Useful for comparability to other entities</li> </ul> | <b>Users</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subjective</li> <li>Not normally audited</li> <li>Could encourage companies to de-list (to avoid requirement to produce MC)</li> <li>Different countries have different needs</li> </ul> |

## Chapter Roundup

- Go back to your earlier studies and revise **IAS 1** and **IAS 8**. IAS 1 was revised in 2007 and 2011. The changes and new formats are given in this section.
- In June 2011, an amendment was issued to IAS 1 to improve the presentation of items of other comprehensive income.
- An important aspect of reporting financial performance is **segment reporting**. This is covered by IFRS 8 *Operating segments*, which replaced IAS 14 *Segment reporting* in November 2006.
- IFRS 8 adopts a **managerial approach** to identifying reportable segments.
- **Reportable segments** are operating segments or aggregation of operating segments that meet specified criteria.
- IFRS 8 **disclosures** are of:
  - Operating segment profit or loss
  - Segment assets
  - Segment liabilities
  - Certain income and expense items
- Disclosures are also required about the **revenues derived from products or services** and about the **countries** in which revenues are earned or assets held, even if that information is not used by management in making decisions.
- **Earnings per share** is a measure of the amount of profits earned by a company for each ordinary share. Earnings are profits after tax and preferred dividends.
- **Basic EPS** is calculated by dividing the net profit or loss for the period attributable to ordinary shareholders by the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the period.
- You should know how to calculate **basic EPS** and how to deal with related complications (issue of shares for cash, bonus issue, share splits/reverse share splits, rights issues).
- **Diluted EPS** is calculated by adjusting the net profit attributable to ordinary shareholders and the weighted average number of shares outstanding for the effects of all dilutive potential ordinary shares.
- Keep the various **sources of financial information** in mind and the effects of insider dealing, the efficient market hypothesis and Stock Exchange regulations.
- Much of the material here on **ratios** should have been revision for you.
- Make sure that you can **define** all the ratios. Look out for variations in definitions of ratios which might appear in questions.
- Always remember that 'profit' and 'net assets' are fairly **arbitrary figures**, affected by different accounting policies and manipulation.
- Financial analysis is a vital tool for **auditors**.
- Accounting policies may be adopted for the purpose of **manipulation**.
- **Changes in accounting standards** can have a significant impact on the financial statements.
- You will probably be asked to **advise the directors** on the implication of a change in accounting standards, or on the effect of using the correct accounting treatment.
- Some of the limitations of financial statements may be addressed by a **management commentary**. The IASB has issued a practice statement on a **management commentary** to supplement and complement the financial statements.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 The statement introduced by IAS 1 as revised in 2011 is:
  - A Statement of total recognised gains and losses
  - B Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
  - C Statement of recognised income and expenses
  - D Statement of recognised gains and losses
- 2 What new financial statement name is introduced in the 2011 revision of IAS 1?
- 3 What is the full name for IAS 8? **(Fill in the blanks.)**  
 Accounting....., changes in accounting..... and .....
- 4 All entities must disclose segment information. *True or false?*
- 5 Geographical and segment information is no longer required. *True or false?*
- 6 Which numerator is used to rank dilutive shares?
- 7 Why is the numerator adjusted for convertible bonds when calculating diluted EPS?
- 8 What are the main sources of financial information available to the external users?
- 9 What is the efficient market hypothesis?
- 10 Apart from ratio analysis, what other information might be helpful in interpreting a company's accounts?
- 11 In a period when profits are fluctuating, what effect does a company's level of gearing have on the profits available for ordinary shareholders?
- 12 The Management Commentary provides detailed disclosures. *True or False?*

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 The correct answer is B.
- 2 Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.
- 3 Accounting **policies**, changes in accounting **estimates** and **errors**
- 4 False. Only entities whose equity or debt securities are publicly traded need disclose segment information.
- 5 False. Information about revenues from different countries must be disclosed unless it is not available and the cost to develop it would be excessive. It should always be disclosed if it is used by management in making operating decisions.
- 6 Net profit from continuing operations only
- 7 Because the issue of shares will affect earnings by the interest saving.
- 8 Published accounts and interim statement, filed documents, government statistics.
- 9 See Section 5.4
- 10
  - Other comments in the accounts eg Directors' Report
  - Age and nature of the assets
  - Current and future market developments
  - Recent acquisition or disposal of subsidiaries
  - Notes to the accounts, auditors' report, after the reporting period events, etc.
- 11 Profits available for the shareholders will be highly volatile and some years there may not be an ordinary dividend paid.
- 12 False. It provides a disclosure framework only.

Now try the questions below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level        | Marks | Time |
|--------|--------------|-------|------|
| Q22    | Introductory | n/a   | n/a  |
| Q27    | Introductory | n/a   | n/a  |



# 19

## Current developments

| Topic list   | Syllabus reference |
|--|--------------------|
| 1 Current issues in corporate reporting                | F2, H4             |
| 2 Recent documents                                     | F2                 |
| 3 Managing the change to IFRS                          | F2                 |
| 4 International harmonisation and move towards US GAAP | F2                 |
| 5 IASB Work Plan                                       | F2                 |

### Introduction

This chapter deals with a number of current issues and developments. Section 1 highlights the latest developments. These are dealt with within the relevant chapters in this Text.

You should be familiar with the accounting standards covered in Part B. If you are in a hurry or revising, go straight to the sections highlighted in this chapter as current issues.

## Study guide

|           |   | Intellectual level |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| <b>B1</b> | <b>The applications, strength and weaknesses of an accounting framework</b>   |                    |
| (a)       | Evaluate the valuation models adopted by standard setters   | 3                  |
| <b>F1</b> | <b>The effect of changes in accounting standards on accounting systems</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Apply and discuss the accounting implications of the first time adoption of a body of new accounting standards      | 3                  |
| <b>F2</b> | <b>Proposed changes to accounting standards</b>   |                    |
| (a)       | Identify the issues and deficiencies which have led to a proposed change to an accounting standard                  | 2                  |
| <b>H2</b> | <b>Convergence between national and international reporting standards</b>   |                    |
| (a)       | Evaluate the implications, nationally and globally, of convergence with International Financial Reporting Standards | 3                  |
| (b)       | Discuss the influence of national regulators on international financial reporting                                   | 3                  |
| <b>H3</b> | <b>Current reporting issues</b>   |                    |
| (a)       | Discuss current issues in corporate reporting   | 3                  |

## Exam guide

Current issues may come up in the context of a question requiring advice. For example, in the scenario question involving groups, perhaps you might have to explain the difference that the proposed changes will make.

Current issues are summarised here, but discussed in detail in the context of the topic to which they relate.

International harmonisation is very topical.

## 1 Current issues in corporate reporting

6/08 – 6/12

### FAST FORWARD

You should know which are the **current issues** and concentrate your studying on these. A large number of new IFRSs have come out this year.

### Exam focus point

The P2 examiner has given the following guidance on current issues:

'The IASB's work programme will be the basis for many of the current issue discursive questions asked in the paper. However the work programme will not be the exclusive source of questions.'

The June 2012 paper had a question on the proposals for the revision of IAS 37.

### 1.1 Hot topics

The IASB workplan, as at June 2012 is reproduced in Section 7. Below are the examinable current issues, with an indication of where to find them. Most are dealt with in the chapters on the individual topic.



|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| ED <i>Revenue from contracts with customers</i>                     | Chapter 1                            |
| IFRS 10 <i>Consolidated financial statements</i>                    | Chapter 12                           |
| IFRS 11 <i>Joint arrangements</i>                                   | Chapter 13                           |
| IFRS 12 <i>Disclosure of interests in other entities</i>            | Chapter 12                           |
| <i>Annual Improvements to IFRS</i>                                  | Section 2 of this chapter            |
| ED <i>Offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities</i>     | Section 2 of this chapter, Chapter 7 |
| ED <i>Investment entities</i>                                       | Section 2 of this chapter            |
| Exposure Draft Financial instruments: amortised cost and impairment | Chapter 7                            |
| Exposure Draft/ Draft IFRS: Hedging                                 | Chapter 7                            |
| Exposure Draft measurement of liabilities in IAS 37                 | Chapter 9                            |
| Revision of IAS 19 <i>Employee benefits</i>                         | Chapter 5                            |
| Presentation of items in OCI  | Chapter 18                           |
| <i>Conceptual Framework</i> (Joint IASB FASB project)               | Chapter 1                            |

### Exam focus point

Keep your eye out for articles on these topics in *Student Accountant*, a good indication that the topic will be examined.

## 2 Recent documents

### FAST FORWARD

Annual improvements and recent Eds not mentioned elsewhere are included in this section.

### 2.1 Improvements to IFRS

The *Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2009-2011 Cycle* was issued in May 2012. Below is a summary of its main changes.

#### 2.1.1 IFRS 1 First time application of IFRS

##### Repeated application of IFRS 1

The IASB has clarified that an entity that has stopped applying IFRS must do one of the following in order to resume reporting under IFRS.

- (a) Re-apply IFRS 1, even if the entity applied IFRS 1 in a previous reporting period, OR
- (b) Apply IFRS retrospectively in accordance with IAS 8 *Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors* (ie, as if it had never stopped applying IFRS)

If the entity re-applies IFRS 1 or applies IAS 8, it must disclose the reasons why it previously stopped applying IFRS and subsequently resumed reporting in accordance with IFRS.

##### Borrowing costs

The IASB has clarified that an entity that has stopped applying IFRS must do one of the following in order

The IASB has made clear that an entity that capitalised borrowing costs in accordance with its previous GAAP before the date of transition to IFRSs may carry forward without adjustment the amount previously capitalised in the opening statement of financial position at the date of transition, and that that borrowing costs incurred after the date of transition that relate to qualifying assets under construction at the date of transition should be accounted for in accordance with IAS 23.

### 2.1.2 Amendments to IAS 1 *Presentation of financial statements*

An entity may present additional comparative information for periods before the required comparative period as long as that information is prepared in accordance with IFRSs. In addition, an entity should present an additional statement of financial position as at the beginning of the required comparative period if it applies an accounting policy retrospectively, makes a retrospective restatement of items in its financial statements or reclassifies items in its financial statements.

### 2.1.3 Amendment to IAS 16 *Property, plant and equipment*

Servicing equipment should be classified as property, plant and equipment when it is used during more than one period, otherwise it should be classified as inventory. This amendment will help ensure that entities consistently record and present these assets.

### 2.1.4 Amendment to IAS 32 *Financial instruments: presentation*

Income tax relating to distributions to holders of an equity instrument and income tax relating to transaction costs of an equity transaction should be accounted for in accordance with IAS 12 *Income taxes*.

### 2.1.5 Amendment to IAS 34 *Interim financial reporting*

Total assets for a particular reportable segment need to be disclosed only when the amounts are regularly provided to the chief operating decision maker and there has been a material change in the total assets for that segment from the amount disclosed in the last annual financial statements.

## 2.2 Offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities

The ED *Offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities* was issued in January 2011.

Currently, financial assets and financial liabilities may be presented in an entity's statement of financial position as two separate amounts, or as a single net amount, depending on whether the entity reports using IFRSs or US GAAP. These accounting differences result in the single largest quantitative difference in reported numbers in statements of financial position prepared in accordance with IFRSs or US GAAP. This reduces the comparability of financial statements, and is especially prominent in the presentation of derivative instruments.

The ED proposes that **offsetting should apply only when the right of set-off is enforceable at all times, including in default and bankruptcy, and the ability to exercise this right is unconditional**, that is, it does not depend on a future event. The entities involved must intend to settle the amounts due with a single payment or simultaneously. Provided all of these requirements are met, offsetting would be required.

## 2.3 Investment entities

The ED *Investment entities* was published in August 2011. It proposes **to define investment entities as a separate type of entity** that would be **exempt from the accounting requirements in IFRS 10 Consolidated financial statements**.

### 2.3.1 Background

Under the current rules of IFRS 10, if an investment entity controls an entity it is investing in, the second entity must be consolidated. However, investors have objected that this treatment would not provide them with the information they need to assess the value of their investments.

### 2.3.2 Proposals

To address these objections, the ED proposes criteria that would have to be met by an entity in order to qualify as an investment entity. These entities would be exempt from the consolidation requirements and instead would be required to account for all their investments at fair value through profit or loss. The Exposure Draft also includes disclosure requirements about the nature and type of these investments.

## 3 Managing the change to IFRS

6/08, 6/11

### 3.1 IFRS 1 *First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards*

#### FAST FORWARD

IFRS 1 gives guidance to entities applying IFRS for the first time.

The adoption of a new body of accounting standards will inevitably have a significant effect on the accounting treatments used by an entity and on the related **systems and procedures**. In 2005 many countries adopted IFRS for the first time and over the next few years other countries are likely to do the same. In addition, many Alternative Investment Market (AIM) companies and public sector companies adopted IFRS for the first time for accounting periods ending in 2009 and 2010, and US companies are likely to move increasingly to IFRS.

IFRS 1 *First-time adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards* was issued to ensure that an entity's first IFRS financial statements contain high quality information that:

- (a) Is transparent for users and comparable over all periods presented;
- (b) Provides a suitable starting point for accounting under IFRSs; and
- (c) Can be generated at a cost that does not exceed the benefits to users.

#### 3.1.1 General principles

An entity applies IFRS 1 in its first IFRS financial statements.

An entity's first IFRS financial statements are the first annual financial statements in which the entity adopts IFRS by an **explicit and unreserved statement of compliance** with IFRS.

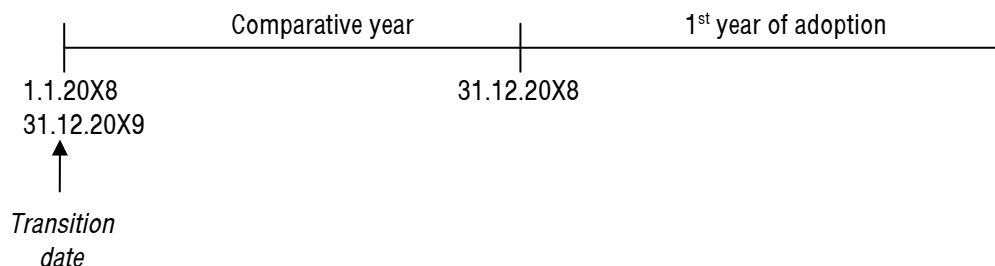
Any other financial statements (including fully compliant financial statements that did not state so) are not the first set of financial statements under IFRS.

#### 3.1.2 Opening IFRS statement of financial position

An entity **prepares and presents** an **opening IFRS statement of financial position** at the date of transition to IFRS as a starting point for IFRS accounting.

Generally, this will be the beginning of the **earliest comparative period shown** (ie full retrospective application). Given that the entity is applying a change in accounting policy on adoption of IFRS, IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* requires the presentation of **at least three statements of financial position** (and two of each of the other statements).

#### Illustration: Opening IFRS SOFP



Preparation of an opening IFRS statement of financial position typically involves adjusting the amounts reported at the same date under previous GAAP.

All adjustments are recognised **directly in retained earnings** (or, if appropriate, another category of equity) not in profit or loss.

### 3.1.3 Estimates

Estimates in the opening IFRS statement of financial position must be consistent with estimates **made at the same date under previous GAAP** even if further information is now available (in order to comply with IAS 10).

### 3.1.4 Transition process

(a) **Accounting policies**

The entity should select accounting policies that comply with IFRSs effective **at the end of the first IFRS reporting period**.

These accounting policies are used in the opening IFRS statement of financial position and throughout all periods presented. The entity does not apply different versions of IFRS effective at earlier dates.

(b) **Derecognition of assets and liabilities**

Previous GAAP statement of financial position may contain items that do not qualify for recognition under IFRS.

For example, IFRS does not permit capitalisation of research, staff training and relocation costs.

(c) **Recognition of new assets and liabilities**

New assets and liabilities may need to be recognised.

For example, deferred tax balances and certain provisions such as environmental and decommissioning costs.

(d) **Reclassification of assets and liabilities**

For example, compound financial instruments need to be split into their liability and equity components.

(e) **Measurement**

Value at which asset or liability is measured may differ under IFRS.

For example, discounting of deferred tax assets/liabilities not allowed under IFRS.

### 3.1.5 Main exemptions from applying IFRS in the opening IFRS statement of financial position

(a) **Property, plant and equipment, investment properties and intangible assets**

(i) Fair value/previous GAAP revaluation may be used as a substitute for cost at date of transition to IFRSs.

(b) **Business combinations**

For business combinations **prior** to the date of transition to IFRSs:

(i) The same classification (acquisition or uniting of interests) is retained as under previous GAAP.

(ii) For items requiring a cost measure for IFRSs, the carrying value **at the date of the business combination** is treated as deemed cost and IFRS rules are applied from thereon.

- (iii) Items requiring a fair value measure for IFRSs are revalued at the date of transition to IFRSs.
- (iv) The carrying value of goodwill at the date of transition to IFRSs is the amount as reported under previous GAAP.
- (c) **Employee benefits**
  - (i) Unrecognised actuarial gains and losses can be deemed zero at the date of transition to IFRSs. IAS 19 is applied from then on.
- (d) **Cumulative translation differences on foreign operations**
  - (ii) Translation differences (which must be disclosed in a separate translation reserve under IFRS) may be deemed zero at the date of transition to IFRS. IAS 21 is applied from then on.
- (e) **Adoption of IFRS by subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures**

If a subsidiary, associate or joint venture adopts IFRS later than its parent, it measures its assets and liabilities:

*Either:* At the amount that would be included in the parent's financial statements, based on the parent's date of transition

*Or:* At the amount based on the subsidiary (associate or joint venture)'s date of transition.

## Disclosure

- (a) A **reconciliation of previous GAAP equity** to IFRSs is required at the date of transition to IFRSs and for the most recent financial statements presented under previous GAAP.
- (b) A **reconciliation of profit** for the most recent financial statements presented under previous GAAP.

### FAST FORWARD

The **change to IFRS** must be carefully managed.

## 3.2 Practical issues

The implementation of the change to IFRS is likely to entail careful management in most companies. Here are some of the **change management considerations** that should be addressed.

- (a) **Accurate assessment of the task involved.** Underestimation or wishful thinking may hamper the effectiveness of the conversion and may ultimately prove inefficient.
- (b) **Proper planning.** This should take place at the overall project level, but a **detailed task analysis** could be drawn up to **control work performed**.
- (c) **Human resource management.** The project must be properly structured and staffed.
- (d) **Training.** Where there are **skills gaps**, remedial training should be provided.
- (e) **Monitoring and accountability.** A relaxed 'it will be alright on the night' attitude could spell danger. Implementation **progress** should be **monitored** and **regular meetings** set up so that participants can **personally account for what they are doing** as well as **flag up any problems** as early as possible. **Project drift should be avoided**.
- (f) **Achieving milestones.** Successful completion of key steps and tasks should be appropriately acknowledged, ie what managers call 'celebrating success', so as to **sustain motivation and performance**.
- (g) **Physical resourcing.** The need for IT **equipment** and **office space** should be properly assessed.
- (h) **Process review.** Care should be taken not to perceive the change as a one-off quick fix. Any change in **future systems** and processes should be assessed and properly implemented.
- (i) **Follow-up procedures.** As with general good management practice, the **follow up procedures** should be planned in to **make sure that the changes stick** and that any further changes are identified and addressed.

### 3.2.1 Financial reporting infrastructure

As well as sound management judgement, implementation of IFRS requires a sound financial reporting infrastructure. Key aspects of this include the following.

- (a) **A robust regulatory framework.** For IFRS to be successful, they must be rigorously enforced.
- (b) **Trained and qualified staff.** Many preparers of financial statements will have been trained in local GAAP and not be familiar with the principles underlying IFRS, let alone the detail. Some professional bodies provide conversion qualifications – for example, the ACCA's Diploma in International Financial Reporting – but the availability of such qualifications and courses may vary from country to country.
- (c) **Availability and transparency of market information.** This is particularly important in the determination of fair values, which are such a key component of many IFRSs.
- (d) **High standards of corporate governance and audit.** This is all the more important in the transition period, especially where there is resistance to change.

Overall, there are significant advantages to the widespread adoption of IFRS, but if the transition is to go well, there must be a realistic assessment of potential challenges.

## 3.3 Other implementation challenges

### 3.3.1 More detailed rules

Implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards entails **a great deal of work** for many companies, particularly those in countries where local GAAP has not been so onerous. For example, many jurisdictions will not have had such detailed rules about recognition, measurement and presentation of financial instruments, and many will have had no rules at all about share-based payment.

A challenge for preparers of financial statements is also **a challenge for users**. When financial statements become far more complex under IFRS than they were under local GAAP, users may find them hard to understand, and consequently of little relevance.

### 3.3.2 Presentation

Many developed countries have legislation requiring set formats and layouts for financial statements. For example, in the UK there is the Companies Act 2006. IFRS demands that presentation is in accordance with IAS 1 *Presentation of financial statements*, but this standard allows alternative forms of presentation. In choosing between alternatives, **countries tend to adopt the format that is closest to local GAAP**, even if this is not necessarily the best format. For example, UK companies are likely to adopt the two-statement format for the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, because this is closest to the old profit and loss account and statement of total recognised gains and losses.

### 3.3.3 Concepts and interpretation

Although later IAS and IFRS are based to an extent on the IASB *Conceptual Framework*, there is **no consistent set of principles** underlying them. The *Conceptual Framework* itself is being revised, and there is controversy over the direction the revision should take. Consequently, preparers of accounts are likely to think in terms of the conceptual frameworks – if any – that they have used in developing local GAAP, and these may be different from that of the IASB. German accounts, for example, have traditionally been aimed at the tax authorities.

Where IFRS themselves give clear guidance, this may not matter, but where there is uncertainty, preparers of accounts will fall back on their traditional conceptual thinking.

### 3.3.4 Choice of accounting treatment

Although many so-called 'allowed alternatives' have been eliminated from IFRS in recent years, choice of treatment remains. For example, IAS 16 *Property, plant and equipment* gives a choice of either the cost model or the revaluation model for a class of property, plant or equipment.

It could be argued that choice is a good thing, as companies should be able to select the treatment that most fairly reflects the underlying reality. However, in the context of change to IFRS, there is a danger that companies **will choose the alternative that closely matches the approach followed under local GAAP, or the one that is easier to implement**, regardless of whether this is the best choice.

### 3.3.5 Inconsistency in recognition or measurement methods

As well as the broader choice of which accounting model to adopt (cost or revaluation, and so on), IFRS allows further choice on recognition and measurement within a particular reporting standard. In countries where local GAAP is not very developed on this matter, preparers of accounts might well **choose the least complex option**, or the option that does not involve making a decision, rather than the correct one.

### 3.3.6 Timing and exemptions taken

IFRSs have provision for early adoption, and this can affect comparability, although impact of a new standard must be disclosed under IAS 8 *Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors*. Further, IFRS 1 *First time adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards* permits a number of exemptions during the periods of transition to IFRS. This gives scope for manipulation, if **exemptions are 'cherry-picked'** to produce a favourable picture.

### 3.3.7 Subjectivity

The extent of the impact will vary, depending on how developed local GAAP was before the transition. However, in general it is likely that **management judgement will have a greater impact** on financial statements prepared under IFRS than under local GAAP. The main reasons for this are as follows.

- (a) The **volume** of rules and number of areas addressed by IFRS is likely to be greater than that under local GAAP
- (b) Many issues are perhaps **addressed for the first time**, for example share-based payment
- (c) IFRSs are likely to be **more complex** than local standards
- (d) IFRSs allow **choice** in many cases, which leads to subjectivity
- (e) Selection of **valuation method** (see above)

## 4 International harmonisation and move towards US GAAP

### FAST FORWARD

**Harmonisation** in accounting is likely to come from international accounting standards, but not in the near future. There are enormous difficulties to overcome, both technical and political.

You should be able to discuss the **barriers to harmonisation** and the advantages of and **progress towards harmonisation**.

Before we look at any other countries in particular, we must consider what barriers there are to international harmonisation and why harmonisation is considered so desirable, before looking at comparative accounting systems.

### 4.1 Barriers to harmonisation

There are undoubtedly many barriers to international harmonisation: if there were not then greater progress would probably have been made by now. The main problems are as follows.

- (a) **Different purposes of financial reporting.** In some countries the purpose is solely for tax assessment, while in others it is for investor decision-making.
- (b) **Different legal systems.** These prevent the development of certain accounting practices and restrict the options available.

- (c) **Different user groups.** Countries have different ideas about who the relevant user groups are and their respective importance. In the USA investor and creditor groups are given prominence, while in Europe employees enjoy a higher profile.
- (d) **Needs of developing countries.** Developing countries are obviously behind in the standard setting process and they need to develop the basic standards and principles already in place in most developed countries.
- (e) **Nationalism** is demonstrated in an unwillingness to accept another country's standard.
- (f) **Cultural differences** result in objectives for accounting systems differing from country to country.
- (g) **Unique circumstances.** Some countries may be experiencing unusual circumstances which affect all aspects of everyday life and impinge on the ability of companies to produce proper reports, for example hyperinflation, civil war, currency restriction and so on.
- (h) **The lack of strong accountancy bodies.** Many countries do not have strong independent accountancy or business bodies which would press for better standards and greater harmonisation.

These are difficult problems to overcome, and yet attempts are being made continually to do so. We must therefore consider what the perceived advantages of harmonisation are, which justify so much effort.

## 4.2 Advantages of global harmonisation

The advantages of harmonisation will be based on the benefits to users and preparers of accounts, as follows.

- (a) **Investors**, both individual and corporate, would like to be able to compare the financial results of different companies internationally as well as nationally in making investment decisions. Differences in accounting practice and reporting can prove to be a barrier to such cross-border analysis. There is a growing amount of investment across borders and there are few financial analysts able to follow shares in international markets. For example, it is not easy for an analyst familiar with UK accounting principles to analyse the financial statements of a Dutch or German company. Harmonisation would therefore be of benefit to such analysts.
- (b) **Multinational companies** would benefit from harmonisation for many reasons including the following.
  - (i) Better access would be gained to foreign investor funds.
  - (ii) Management control would be improved, because harmonisation would aid internal communication of financial information.
  - (iii) Appraisal of foreign entities for take-overs and mergers would be more straightforward.
  - (iv) It would be easier to comply with the reporting requirements of overseas stock exchanges.
  - (v) Consolidation of foreign subsidiaries and associated companies would be easier.
  - (vi) A reduction in audit costs might be achieved.
  - (vii) Transfer of accounting staff across national borders would be easier.
- (c) **Governments of developing countries** would save time and money if they could adopt international standards and, if these were used internally, governments of developing countries could attempt to control the activities of foreign multinational companies in their own country. These companies could not 'hide' behind foreign accounting practices which are difficult to understand.
- (d) **Tax authorities.** It will be easier to calculate the tax liability of investors, including multinationals who receive income from overseas sources.
- (e) **Regional economic groups** usually promote trade within a specific geographical region. This would be aided by common accounting practices within the region.
- (f) **Large international accounting firms** would benefit as accounting and auditing would be much easier if similar accounting practices existed throughout the world.



## 4.3 Progress with harmonisation to date

The barriers to harmonisation may be daunting but some progress has been made. There are various bodies which are working on different aspects of harmonisation and these are discussed below. The most important of these bodies, in the light of recent developments, are the IASB and the UK ASB.

### 4.3.1 ASB and international standards

The UK ASB considers the development of international standards of **fundamental importance**. In addition, the UK ASB meets on a formal, and regular basis with standard-setters around the world.

#### Exam focus point

The UK's FRS 12 *Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets* is almost identical to IAS 37 of the same name.

## 4.4 The EC regulation

#### FAST FORWARD

The EC has required that **since 2005** consolidated accounts of all listed companies should **comply with IFRS**.

As we have already seen, the EC regulations form one part of a broader programme for the harmonisation of company law in member states. The commission is uniquely the only organisation to produce **international** standards of accounting practice which are legally enforceable, in the form of directives which must be included in the national legislation of member states. The directives have been criticised as they might become constraints on the application of world-wide standards and bring accounting standardisation and harmonisation into the political arena.

The EC has adopted a regulation stating that **from 2005 consolidated accounts of listed companies have been required to comply with international financial reporting standards**. The implications of this proposal are far reaching.

Many commentators believe that, in the light of the above, it is only a matter of time before national standard setting bodies like the ASB are, in effect, replaced by the IASB and national standards fall into disuse. However, national standards were designed for the national environment, which includes small companies. Moreover, the IASB will need input and expertise from valued national standard setters like the ASB.

## 4.5 Convergence with US GAAP

#### FAST FORWARD

Convergence with EC countries has been more or less put on hold while **IFRS moves closer to US GAAP**.

### 4.5.1 Norwalk agreement

In October 2002, the IASB reached an agreement with the US's FASB (Financial Accounting Standards Board) (the '**Norwalk agreement**') to undertake a short-term convergence project aimed at removing a variety of individual differences between US GAAP and International standards. The first standard resulting from this project was IFRS 5 *Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations* (published March 2004).

### 4.5.2 Principles-based approach

In 2003, an 'identical style and wording' approach was agreed for standards issued by FASB and the IASB on joint projects. Revised business combinations standards were issued as a result of this approach in 2008.

FASB also recognised the need to follow a '**principles-based**' approach to standard-setting (as the IASB has always done) in the light of recent corporate failures and scandals which have led to criticism of the 'rules-based' approach.

### 4.5.3 Common conceptual framework

In 2004 the IASB and FASB agreed to develop a **common conceptual framework** which would be a significant step towards harmonisation of future standards. The project has been divided into two phases:

- (a) The initial focus is on particular aspects of the frameworks dealing with objectives, qualitative characteristics, elements, recognition, and measurement, giving priority to issues affecting projects for new/revised standards.
- (b) Later, they will consider the applicability of those concepts to other sectors, beginning with not-for-profit entities in the private sector.

### 4.5.4 Memorandum of understanding

In 2006, the two Boards signed a '**Memorandum of Understanding**'. This laid down a 'roadmap of convergence' between IFRSs and US GAAP in the period 2006-2008.

The aim was to remove by 2009 the requirement for foreign companies reporting under IFRSs listed on a US stock exchange to have to prepare a reconciliation to US GAAP.

Events moved faster than expected, and in 2007 the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) decided to allow non-US filers to report under IFRSs for years ended after 15 November 2007 with no reconciliation to US GAAP.

Consultation is also underway on the possibility of the use of IFRSs by US filers. In November 2008, the SEC published a proposal, titled *Roadmap for the Potential Use of Financial Statements Prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards by U.S. Issuers*. The proposed roadmap sets out milestones that, if achieved, could lead to the adoption of IFRSs in the US in 2014. It also proposes to permit the early adoption of IFRSs from 2010 for some US entities.

### 4.5.5 FASB/IASB projects

Some of the main results of the convergence project between FASB and the IASB have been:

- (a) The issue of IFRS 5 *Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations*
- (b) The issue of IFRS 8 *Operating segments*
- (c) Revision of IAS 23 *Borrowing costs*, to align with US GAAP
- (d) Revision of IAS 1 *Presentation of financial statements* and an agreement on common wording to be used in accounting standards
- (e) Revision of IFRS 3 *Business combinations* and IAS 27 *Consolidated and separate financial statements*
- (f) The issue of IFRS 9 *Financial instruments*, Exposure Drafts on impairment and hedging
- (g) The issue of IFRS 13 *Fair value measurement*
- (h) There are also Discussion Papers or Exposure drafts on the following topics:
  - (i) Conceptual Framework
  - (ii) Financial statements presentation
  - (iii) Leases
  - (iv) Revenue Recognition
  - (v) Income taxes

## 4.6 Possible setback

In July 2012, the Stolt Report of the Securities and Exchange Commission did not contain any recommendation on whether to move to IFRS.

## 4.7 Dialogue with other key standard setters

The IASB maintains a policy of dialogue with other key standard setters around the world, in the interest of harmonising standards across the globe.

Partner standard setters are often involved in the development of Discussion Papers and Exposure Drafts on new areas.

### 4.7.1 China and Japan

In 2006, China officially released a new set of Chinese Accounting Standards (CASs) which are substantially converged with IFRSs, and reaffirmed its commitment to international convergence.

In 2005, the IASB and the Accounting Standards Board of Japan (ASBJ) announced a joint project to reduce differences between IFRSs and Japanese accounting standards, which is currently in progress. Consultation is also underway on the use of IFRSs in Japan from 2016.

### 4.7.2 Other countries

IFRS are mandatory for Brazil from 2010, Canada and South Korea from 2011, Mexico and Argentina from 2012 and phased in for India from 2012 to 2014. From 2014, US filers of financial statements will need to consult on the use of IFRS.

The following countries will **require** the use of the IFRS for SMEs (see [Chapter 21](#)) from 2013: Bahamas, Bahrain, Brazil, Cyprus, El Salvador, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Mongolia, Panama, Ireland, Kosovo, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Swaziland, Turkey, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

The following countries will **permit** the use of the IFRS for SMEs (see Chapter 21) from 2013: Austria, Argentina, Chile, Denmark, Israel, Namibia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uzbekistan and the United States.

## 4.8 The situation today and in the future

Many organisations committed to global harmonisation have done a great deal of work towards this goal. It is the case at present, however, that fundamental disagreements exist between countries and organisations about the way forward. One of the major gulfs is between the reporting requirements in developed countries and those in non-developed countries. It will be some time before these difficulties can be overcome. The IASB is likely to be the lead body in attempting to do so, as discussed above.

## 5 IASB Work Plan

Below is the latest (14 June 2012) version of the IASB Workplan. Not all the topics are examinable but all examinable aspects are covered in this Text.

### IASB work plan - projected targets as at 14 June 2012

| Next major project milestone                          |                            |  |             |                   |     |       |
|---|----------------------------|--|-------------|-------------------|-----|-------|
| Agenda consultation                                   | 2012 Q2                    | 2012 Q3                                | 2012 Q4     | 2013 Q1           | MoU | Joint |
| Three-yearly public consultation                      | Feedback Statement         | Development of strategy                |             |                   |     |       |
| Next major project milestone                          |                            |  |             |                   |     |       |
| Financial Crisis related projects                     | 2012 Q2                    | 2012 Q3                                | 2012 Q4     | 2013 Q1           | MoU | Joint |
| IFRS 9: Financial instruments (replacement of IAS 39) |                            |  |             |                   |     |       |
| Classification and measurement (review)               |                            |  | Target ED   |                   | ✓   | ✓     |
| Impairment  |                            |  | Re-exposure |                   | ✓   | ✓     |
| Hedge accounting                                      |                            |  |             |                   |     |       |
| General hedge accounting                              | Review draft               | Target IFRS                            |             |                   | ✓   |       |
| Macro hedge accounting                                |                            | Target DP                              |             |                   | ✓   |       |
| Next major project milestone                          |                            |  |             |                   |     |       |
| Memorandum of Understanding projects                  | 2012 Q2                    | 2012 Q3                                | 2012 Q4     | 2013 Q1           | MoU | Joint |
| Leases  |                            |  | Re-exposure |                   | ✓   | ✓     |
| Revenue recognition                                   | Consider comments received |  |             |                   | ✓   | ✓     |
| Next major project milestone                          |                            |  |             |                   |     |       |
| Other Projects  | 2012 Q2                    | 2012 Q3                                | 2012 Q4     | 2013 Q1           | MoU | Joint |
| Insurance contracts                                   |                            | Review draft or revised ED             |             |                   |     | ✓     |
| IAS 8 Effective date and transition methods           |                            | Target ED                              |             |                   |     |       |
| Annual improvements 2010-2012                         |                            |  |             | Target completion |     |       |
| Annual improvements 2011-2013                         |                            | Target ED                              |             |                   |     |       |
| Consolidation– Investment entities                    |                            | Target IFRS                            |             |                   |     | ✓     |
| Transition Guidance (Proposed amendments to IFRS 10)  | Target amendment           |  |             |                   |     |       |
| Next major project milestone                          |                            |  |             |                   |     |       |
| IFRS for SMEs   | 2012 Q2                    | 2012 Q3                                | 2012 Q4     | 2013 Q1           | MoU | Joint |
| Comprehensive Review 2012-2014                        | Invitation to Comment      | See detailed timetable on project page |             |                   |     |       |
| Next major project milestone                          |                            |  |             |                   |     |       |
| Post-implementation reviews                           | 2012 Q2                    | 2012 Q3                                | 2012 Q4     | 2013 Q1           | MoU | Joint |
| IFRS 8 Operating Segments                             | Request for Information    |  |             |                   |     |       |
| IFRS 3 Business Combinations                          |                            | Initiate review                        |             |                   |     |       |

## Chapter Roundup

- You should know which are the **current issues** and concentrate your studying on these. A large number of new IFRSs have come out this year.
- IFRS 1 gives guidance to entities applying IFRS for the first time.
- The **change to IFRS** must be carefully managed.
- **Harmonisation** in accounting is likely to come from international accounting standards, but not in the near future. There are enormous difficulties to overcome, both technical and political.
- You should be able to discuss the **barriers to harmonisation** and the advantages of and **progress towards harmonisation**.
- The EC has required that **since 2005** consolidated accounts of all listed companies should **comply with IFRS**.
- Convergence with EC countries has more or less been put on hold while **IFRS moves closer to US GAAP**.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 Which preparers and users of accounts can be expected to benefit from global harmonisation of accounting?
- 2 How many IFRSs are in existence at the moment?
- 3 What is the latest IFRS?
- 4 What is the Norwalk agreement?
- 5 Which standard is undergoing major revisions?

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 Investors, multinational companies, governments of developing countries, the authorities (overseas income), regional economic groups, large international accounting firms
- 2 13
- 3 IFRS 13 *Fair value measurement*.
- 4 An agreement between the IASB and FASB to undertake a short-term convergence project aimed at removing differences between US GAAP and IFRS.
- 5 IAS 39, which is being replaced by IFRS 9

Now try the question below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level       | Marks | Time    |
|--------|-------------|-------|---------|
| Q23    | Examination | 25    | 45 mins |

# 20

## Reporting for specialised entities

| Topic list   | Syllabus reference |
|--|--------------------|
| 1 Specialised entities and the exam                  | E1                 |
| 2 The not-for-profit sector: primary aims            | E1                 |
| 3 The not-for-profit sector: regulatory framework    | E1                 |
| 4 The not-for-profit sector: performance measurement | E1                 |
| 5 Entity reconstructions                             | E2                 |

### Introduction

Concentrate on Sections 1 and 5 – these are the most important for your exam.

You should be aware that not-for-profit entities and smaller entities may have different accounting needs from the larger profit-making entities that you are used to. This chapter gives you the background you need to set you thinking about whether a one-size-fits-all set of standards is adequate.

We also include a couple of standards relating to specialist businesses.

Entity reconstructions are a kind of specialised entity, where the normal rules do not apply because the business is not a going concern.

## Study guide

|           |  | Intellectual level |
|-----------|--|--------------------|
| <b>E1</b> | <b>Financial reporting in specialised, not-for-profit and public sector entities</b>   |                    |
| (a)       | Apply knowledge from the syllabus to straightforward transactions and events arising in specialised, not-for-profit and public sector entities | 3                  |
| <b>E2</b> | <b>Entity reconstructions</b>  |                    |
| (a)       | Identify when a party may no longer be viewed as a going concern, or uncertainty exists surrounding the going concern status                   | 2                  |
| (b)       | Identify and outline the circumstances in which a reconstruction would be an appropriate alternative to a company liquidation                  | 2                  |
| (c)       | Outline the appropriate accounting treatment required relating to reconstructions  | 2                  |

## Exam guide

The examiner has stated specifically that specialised entities will be tested in terms of **current IFRS**.

This could be tested in essay form, or you could be given a scenario of a not-for-profit entity and have to apply your knowledge from the rest of the syllabus to it. The examiner has said that he will give you the information you need for a question on specialised entities.

## 1 Specialised entities and the exam

12/07 – 6/12

### FAST FORWARD

Questions on specialist entities will be set in terms of **current IFRS**.

### 1.1 Examiner's approach

The P2 examiner has stated explicitly that questions on specialist entities will be set in terms of current accounting standards. So do not be alarmed if the setting for a question is a club, or a local council rather than a company. The principles will be the same.

### 1.2 Typical specialist entity questions

Below are some typical questions. The examiner is simply testing whether you are flexible enough to apply your knowledge and understanding of accounting standards in a fresh context.

#### 1.2.1 An agricultural college

An agricultural college is not the kind of setting you are used to encountering in your accountancy studies. It doesn't manufacture or trade in goods. But there are issues that it will have in common with companies that do.



#### Question

#### Agricultural college

Swindale Agricultural College derives its income from a variety of sources. It receives a grant from Central Government, further subsidies from the European Union and money from the local Council Tax. In addition, students pay fees.

The Diploma in Agriculture course lasts nine months – from October till the end of June. The College's accounting year end is 31 December 20X8. Students pay \$3,000 subsidised tuition fees. As at 1 October



20X8, twenty students have enrolled, each paying a non-refundable deposit of \$1,200. The balance of \$1,800 per student is to be paid in nine monthly instalments of \$200.

The College Bursar argues that because the deposit is non-refundable, the fee income should be recognised on a cash receipt basis.

*Required*

Advise the College Bursar on the correct accounting treatment for the fee income. Show the journal entries for this treatment.

## Answer

This question deals with revenue recognition, specifically in the context of the provision of a service.

Total fee income from students for this course (deposits and instalments) will be:

$$(20 \times \$1,200) + (20 \times \$200 \times 9) = \$60,000$$

Currently it is proposed to recognise revenue on the basis of cash received, which, as at 31 December 20X8, is the deposit plus three monthly instalments:

$$(20 \times \$1,200) + (20 \times \$200 \times 3) = \$36,000$$

This is wrong, as it does not take account of the matching process. As at 31 December 20X8, only one third of the course (three out of nine months) has been delivered, so only one third of the total fee income should be recognised. Income recognised should be \$20,000.

There is an element of deferred consideration. As this is over months, rather than years, it will not be necessary to discount to arrive at the fair value of the consideration. But it must be matched. The deposits received of \$24,000 ( $20 \times \$1,200$ ) but not yet recognised as revenue at the year end are to be regarded as deferred income. These deposits are non-refundable, but they create an obligation to complete the contract. Accordingly they should be a liability in the Statement of financial position.

The journal entries are as follows:

|        |   |          |          |
|--------|---|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | Cash  | \$36,000 |          |
| CREDIT | Fee income (recognised)                                       |          | \$20,000 |
| CREDIT | Deferred income (received in advance of delivery of services) |          | \$16,000 |

Note that one third of the deposit ( $\$24,000 \div 3 = \$8,000$ ) has been recognised in the period, which is correct, because one third of the course has been delivered.

## 1.2.2 A football club

This question, from a past exam paper was specifically mentioned by the examiner as being the sort of setting that could be tested. Note the advice given at the end of the question: you do not need any specialist knowledge of the football club finance sector to answer this question.



### Question

### Football club

Seejoy is a famous football club but has significant cash flow problems. The directors and shareholders wish to take steps to improve the club's financial position. The following proposals had been drafted in an attempt to improve the cash flow of the club. However, the directors need advice upon their implications.

#### (a) Sale and leaseback of football stadium (excluding the land element)

The football stadium is currently accounted for using the cost model in IAS 16 *Property, plant and equipment*. The carrying value of the stadium will be \$12 million at 31 December 20X6. The stadium will have a remaining life of 20 years at 31 December 20X6, and the club uses straight line depreciation. It is proposed to sell the stadium to a third party institution on 1 January 20X7 and

lease it back under a 20 year finance lease. The sale price and fair value are \$15 million which is the present value of the minimum lease payments. The agreement transfers the title of the stadium back to the football club at the end of the lease at nil cost. The rental is \$1.2 million per annum in advance commencing on 1 January 20X7. The directors do not wish to treat this transaction as the raising of a secured loan. The implicit interest rate on the finance in the lease is 5.6%. **(9 marks)**

**(b) Player registrations**

The club capitalises the unconditional amounts (transfer fees) paid to acquire players.

The club proposes to amortise the cost of the transfer fees over ten years instead of the current practice which is to amortise the cost over the duration of the player's contract. The club has sold most of its valuable players during the current financial year but still has two valuable players under contract.

| <i>Player</i> | <i>Transfer fee capitalised</i> | <i>Amortisation to 31 December 20X6</i> | <i>Contract commenced</i> | <i>Contract expires</i> |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|
|               | \$m                             | \$m                                     |                           |                         |
| A Steel       | 20                              | 4                                       | 1 January 20X6            | 31 December 20Y0        |
| R Aldo        | 15                              | 10                                      | 1 January 20X5            | 31 December 20X7        |

If Seejoy win the national football league, then a further \$5 million will be payable to the two players' former clubs. Seejoy are currently performing very poorly in the league. **(5 marks)**

**(c) Issue of bond**

The club proposes to issue a 7% bond with a face value of \$50 million on 1 January 20X7 at a discount of 5% that will be secured on income from future ticket sales and corporate hospitality receipts, which are approximately \$20 million per annum. Under the agreement the club cannot use the first \$6 million received from corporate hospitality sales and reserved tickets (season tickets) as this will be used to repay the bond. The money from the bond will be used to pay for ground improvements and to pay wages to players.

The bond will be repayable, both capital and interest, over 15 years with the first payment of \$6 million due on 31 December 20X7. It has an effective interest rate of 7.7%. There will be no active market for the bond and the company does not wish to use valuation models to value the bond.

**(6 marks)**

**(d) Player trading**

Another proposal is for the club to sell its two valuable players, Aldo and Steel. It is thought that it will receive a total of \$16 million for both players. The players are to be offered for sale at the end of the current football season on 1 May 20X7. **(5 marks)**

*Required*

Discuss how the above proposals would be dealt with in the financial statement of Seejoy for the year ending 31 December 20X7, setting out their accounting treatment and appropriateness in helping the football club's cash flow problems.

(Candidates do not need knowledge of the football finance sector to answer this question.)

**(Total = 25 marks)**

**Answer**

**(a) Sale and leaseback of football stadium**

The proposal is for a sale and leaseback which be treated as a **finance lease**. The accounting treatment for such a transaction is dealt with by IAS 17 *Leases*. As the **substance of the transaction is a financing transaction** this would not be dealt with as a sale so the **stadium would remain on the statement of financial position as an item of property, plant and equipment** and be depreciated but it will now be valued at the sales value of \$15 million. The **excess of the sales**

**value over the carrying value** will be recognised as **deferred income** and credited to profit or loss over the period of the finance lease.

When the sale takes place on 1 January 20X7 the double entry will be:

|        |                                 | \$m | \$m |
|--------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|
| DEBIT  | Cash                            | 15  |     |
| CREDIT | Properties, plant and equipment |     | 12  |
| CREDIT | Deferred income                 |     | 3   |

On this same date the finance lease will also be recognised:

|        |                                 |    |    |
|--------|---------------------------------|----|----|
| DEBIT  | Properties, plant and equipment | 15 |    |
| CREDIT | Finance lease payables          |    | 15 |

In the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 20X7 the effects will be as follows:

| STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME     | \$'000 |
|--|--------|
| Depreciation of stadium (\$15m/20 years)                       | (750)  |
| Finance charge $((\$15\text{m} - \$1.2\text{m}) \times 5.6\%)$ | (773)  |
| Deferred income (\$3m/20 years)                                | 150    |

| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  |        |
|--|--------|
| Properties, plant and equipment  |        |
| Stadium (\$15m – \$0.75m)  | 14,250 |
| Current liabilities  |        |
| Rental payment   | 1,200  |
| Non-current liabilities  |        |
| Finance lease payables $(\$15\text{m} - (\$1.2\text{m} \times 2) + \$0.773\text{m})$ | 13,373 |
| Deferred income $(\$3\text{m} - \$0.15\text{m})$                                     | 2,850  |

There is little doubt that this form of sale and leaseback will improve the cash flow of the club as \$15 million will be received on 1 January 20X7. However, the required accounting treatment by IAS 17 will mean that the sale and leaseback has **significant and detrimental affects** on the financial statements. The **profit** shown in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income is likely to **decrease** as the finance charge on the lease significantly outweighs the deferred income credit to profit or loss. If the \$15 million receipt is not used to pay off existing long term loans then the overall **gearing** of the club will **increase** as the finance lease payables are included on the statement of financial position.

It might be worth investigating the possibility of a **sale and leaseback** agreement which **results in an operating lease rather** than a finance lease. In such a leaseback, as the sale is at fair value, the **profit can be recognised immediately** in profit or loss and the stadium will be deemed to have been sold and removed from the statement of financial position. There will also be no finance leases payables as liabilities on the statement of financial position. The downside however is that any increase in the residual value of the stadium would be lost.

(b) **Player registrations**

The player registrations are **capitalised** by the club as intangible non-current assets under IAS 38 *Intangible assets*. This is an **acceptable** accounting treatment; the transfer fees classify as assets as it is probable that expected future benefits will flow to the club as a result of the contracts and the cost can be measured reliably at the amount of the transfer fees actually paid.

According to IAS 38, intangible non-current assets which are capitalised should be **amortised over their useful life**. Therefore, on the face of it, claiming a useful life of 10 years might be acceptable. However IAS 38 recommends that amortisation reflects the useful life of the assets and the pattern of economic benefits. Therefore, the proposal to amortise the transfer fees over a period of **ten years is not acceptable as the contracts are only for five years and three years**.

In terms of **cash flow** this proposal regarding the amortisation would have **no effect** at all. It would simply be a bookkeeping entry which would reduce the amortisation charge to profit or loss.

The potential payment to the two players' former clubs of \$5 million would **not** appear to be **probable** due to the current form of the club. Therefore, under IAS 37 *Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets* no provision would be recognised for this amount. However, the possible payment does fall within the IAS 37 definition of a contingent liability which is a possible obligation arising out of past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity. Therefore, as a contingent liability the amount and details would be **disclosed** in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) **Issue of bond**

What the club is proposing here is known as **securitisation**. This particular type of securitisation is often called 'future flow' securitisation. In some forms of securitisation a special purpose vehicle is set up to administer the income stream or assets involved in which case there is potentially an off balance sheet effect. However, in this case there is **no special purpose vehicle** and therefore the only accounting issue is how the bond is to be treated under IAS 39 *Financial instruments: recognition and measurement*.

The bond will be recorded as a **financial liability** and will either be classified as a financial liability at fair value through profit or loss or as a financial liability measured at amortised cost. To be a financial liability at fair value through profit or loss the bond must either be held for trading or be part of a group of financial assets, financial liabilities, or both, that are managed on a fair value basis. It is unlikely that this is the case, therefore the bond will be **classified as measured at amortised cost**.

The bond will be **initially recognised at its fair value** which is the price that would be paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Fair value at inception will normally be the amount of the consideration received for the instrument. Subsequent to initial recognition the instrument will be measured using amortised cost or fair value. In this case the club does not wish to use the valuation model, therefore the bond will be measured at amortised cost.

When the bond is issued on 1 January 20X7 it will be measured at the value of the consideration received of \$47.5 million (\$50m × 95%).

At 31 December 20X7 the valuation will be:

|                  | \$m         |
|------------------|-------------|
| Initial value    | 47.5        |
| Interest at 7.7% | 3.7         |
| Cash paid        | (6.0)       |
| Value on SOFP    | <u>45.2</u> |

In terms of cash flow the issue of the bond will **bring \$47.5 million into the club**. The bond is effectively secured on the income stream of the future corporate hospitality sales and season tickets receipts and due to this security the coupon rate of interest is lower than the market rates. The money is to be used to improve the grounds which is an appropriate use of long-term funds. However, the proposal to pay the **short term costs of the players' wages** out of these long term funds is a **misuse of long-term capital** which is likely to lead to future liquidity problems.

(d) **Player trading**

In accounting terms there is no issue to deal with at 31 December 20X6 as the potential sale of the players will not fall to be classified as 'held for sale' non-current assets under IFRS 5 *Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations*. In order for these players to classify as held for sale they would need to be available for immediate sale which they are not.

However, the club must consider carrying out an **impairment review** of these assets at 31 December 20X6. If the players are sold for the anticipated figure of \$16 million then the following loss will be incurred:

|  | \$m  |
|--|------|
| Carrying value at 1 May 20X7           |      |
| A Steel (\$20m – (\$4m + 4/12 × \$4m)) | 14.7 |
| R Aldo (\$15m – (\$10 + 4/12 × \$5))   | 3.3  |
|  | 18.0 |
| Potential sales value                  | 16.0 |
| Potential loss                         | 2.0  |

This potential loss of \$2 million on the sale of these players may be evidence of impairment and a review should be carried out at 31 December 20X6 and the **players' value written down to recoverable amount** if necessary.

In terms of cash flow, the sale of the players would **provide much needed cash**. However, as the club is performing poorly currently the sale of the two best players **may lead to even worse performance** which is likely to have a detrimental affect on ticket sales and the liquidity of the club in future.

### 1.3 Other possibilities

Another recent exam question was set in the entertainment industry. The possibilities are wide ranging, and you need to apply common sense. Suppose, for example, you got a property dealer, who was trying to classify his properties as investment properties? This would not be permitted, because the properties are for sale and not for investment potential.

### 1.4 Section summary

Questions on specialised entities will be set in terms of **current IFRS**.

- You will not need specialist knowledge, beyond a common sense awareness that different organisations do things in different ways
- Any required specialist information (unlikely) will be given to you
- Any setting, type of company or organisation could come up

## 2 The not-for-profit sector: primary aims

#### FAST FORWARD

The not-for-profit sector includes **public sector entities** and **private** not-for-profit entities such as charities.

Not-for-profit entities have **different goals** from profit making entities, but they still need to be **properly managed** and their accounts need to present the information fairly.

What organisations do we have in mind when we refer to **not-for-profit and public sector entities**? These are the most obvious examples:

- Central government departments and agencies
- Local or federal government departments
- Publicly-funded bodies providing healthcare (in the UK this would be the NHS) and social housing
- Further and higher education institutions
- Charitable bodies

The first four are **public sector entities**. Charities are **private** not-for-profit entities.

Not-for-profit entities have different goals and purposes to profit-making entities and are responsible to different stakeholders. However, they are dealing in very large sums of money and it is important that they are properly managed and that their accounts present fairly the results of their operations.

Until recently, **public sector** accounts were prepared on a **cash basis**. A transition is still in progress which will get them operating on an **accruals basis**, in line with normal practice in the private sector.

## 2.1 Conceptual framework for not-for profit entities

The IASB and the FASB are currently in a project to produce a new, improved conceptual framework for financial reporting, entitled: *The Objective of Financial Reporting and Qualitative Characteristics of Decision-Useful Financial Reporting Information*. This project is being undertaken in phases. Phase G is entitled *Application to not-for-profit entities in the private and public sector*. A monitoring group, including ASB members, set up to advise on this has made the following points:

- (a) Not-for profit entities have different objectives, different operating environments and other different characteristics to private sector businesses
- (b) The following issues exist regarding application of the proposals to not-for-profit entities:
  - (i) Insufficient emphasis on accountability/stewardship
  - (ii) A need to broaden the definition of users and user groups
  - (iii) The emphasis on future cash flows is inappropriate to not-for-profit entities
  - (iv) Insufficient emphasis on budgeting

## 2.2 Accountability/stewardship

Not-for-profit entities are not reporting to shareholders, but it is very important that they can account for funds received and show how they have been spent. In some cases, resources may be contributed for specific purposes and management is required to show that they have been utilised for that purpose. Perhaps most importantly, taxpayers are entitled to see how the government is spending their money.

## 2.3 Users and user groups

The primary user group for not-for-profit entities is providers of funds. In the case of public bodies, such as government departments, this primary group will consist of taxpayers. In the case of private bodies such as charities it will be financial supporters, and also potential future financial supporters. There is also a case for saying that a second primary user group should be recognised, being the recipients of the goods and services provided by the not-for-profit entity.

## 2.4 Cash flow focus

The new Framework, like the one it replaced, emphasises the need to provide information which will enable users to assess an entity's ability to generate net cash inflows. Not-for-profit entities also need to generate cash flows, but other aspects are generally more significant – for instance, the resources the entity has available to deliver future goods and services, the cost and effectiveness of those it has delivered in the past and the degree to which it is meeting its objectives.

## 2.5 Budgeting

The IASB has decided to leave consideration of whether financial reporting should include forecast information until later in the project. However, for not-for-profit entities, budgets and variance analyses are more important. In some cases, funding is supplied on the basis of a formal, published budget.

# 3 The not-for-profit sector: regulatory framework

### FAST FORWARD

The **IASB** and the **FASB** are working on a **framework** for reporting, which includes not-for-profit entities. The International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSAB) is developing a set of **International Public Sector Accounting Standards** based on IFRS.

Regulation of public not-for-profit entities, principally local and national governments and governmental agencies, is by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSAB), which comes under the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

### 3.1 International public sector accounting standards

The IPSASB is developing a set of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs), based on IFRSs. To date 21 IPSASs have been issued.

#### Exam focus point

You don't need to know these – skim over for background only.

- 1 Presentation of financial statements
- 2 Statements of cash flows
- 3 Net surplus or deficit for the period, fundamental errors and changes in accounting policies
- 4 The effect of changes in foreign exchange rates
- 5 Borrowing costs
- 6 Consolidated financial statements and accounting for controlled entities
- 7 Accounting for investments in associates
- 8 Financial reporting of Interests in joint ventures
- 9 Revenue from exchange transactions
- 10 Financial reporting in hyperinflationary economies
- 11 Construction contracts
- 12 Inventories
- 13 Leases
- 14 Events after the reporting date
- 15 Financial instruments: disclosure and presentation
- 16 Investment property
- 17 Property, plant and equipment
- 18 Segment reporting
- 19 Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets
- 10 Related party disclosures
- 21 Impairment of non-cash-generating assets

You are not required to remember this list of IPSASs, or know any of their detailed provisions, but you can see that they closely mirror the IAS/IFRSs and each one is based on the relevant International Financial Reporting Standard.

The IPSASs are all based on the accrual method of accounting and one of the aims of the IPSAB is to move public sector organisations from the cash to the accruals basis of accounting.

### 3.2 Characteristics of not-for-profit entities

As part of its preliminary report on the new *ConceptualFramework*, the IASB sets out some of the characteristics of not-for-profit entities as follows.

#### 3.2.1 Private sector

Not-for-profit entities in the private sector have the following characteristics:

- (a) Their objective is to provide goods and services to various recipients and not to make a profit
- (b) They are generally characterised by the absence of defined ownership interests (shares) that can be sold, transferred or redeemed
- (c) They may have a wide group of stakeholders to consider (including the public at large in some cases)
- (d) Their revenues generally arise from contributions (donations or membership dues) rather than sales
- (e) Their capital assets are typically acquired and held to deliver services without the intention of earning a return on them

### 3.2.2 Public sector

Nor-for-profit entities in the public sector have similar key characteristics to those in the private sector. They are typically established by legislation and:

- (a) Their objective is to provide goods and services to various recipients or to develop or implement policy on behalf of governments and not to make a profit
- (b) They are characterised by the absence of defined ownership interests that can be sold, transferred or redeemed
- (c) They typically have a wide group of stakeholders to consider (including the public at large)
- (d) Their revenues are generally derived from taxes or other similar contributions obtained through the exercise of coercive powers
- (e) Their capital assets are typically acquired and held to deliver services without the intention of earning a return on them

### 3.3 Not-for-profit entities – specific issues

While the general trend is to get not-for-profit entities producing accounts which are based as far as possible on the provisions of IFRS and which are generally comparable to those produced for profit-making entities, there are two issues which have yet to be resolved.

#### 3.3.1 Cost of transition

While there has been a general assumption that for public sector entities the move to the accruals basis will result in more relevant and better quality financial reporting, no actual cost-benefit analysis has been undertaken on this.

One of the arguments in favour of the adoption of the accruals basis is that it will be possible to compare the cost of providing a service against the same cost in the private sector. It will then be possible to see how goods and services can be most cheaply sourced.

However, it is questionable whether governments get a good deal anyway when they involve themselves with the private sector and the move to accruals accounting has not gained universal acceptance. The governments of Germany, Italy and Holland have so far made no plans for the transition and the governments of China, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore have decided against it. The main issue is the huge cost involved in terms of the number of qualified accountants required. For developing countries this cost is considered to be prohibitive.

#### 3.3.2 Definition of a liability

The *Conceptual Framework* defines a liability as 'a present obligation of the entity arising from past events, the settlement of which is expected to result in an outflow from the entity of resources embodying economic benefits'. A liability is recognised when the amount of the outflow can be reliably measured.

Public benefit entities are subject to a commitment to provide public benefits, but there is an issue to be resolved over whether this commitment meets the definition of a liability. In this situation there has been no 'exchange'. The entity has not received any goods or services for which it is required to make 'settlement'. A distinction can be drawn between 'general commitments to provide public benefits' and 'specific commitments to provide public benefits'. The specific commitment can be regarded as a 'present obligation', but it can be argued that the obligation only arises when the entity formally undertakes to provide something such as a non-performance-related grant. (If the grant were performance-related, the entity would be able to withdraw from the agreement if the performance targets were not reached.)

There is also the issue of 'reliable measurement'. Governments in particular often find themselves funding projects which go a long way over budget, suggesting that reliable measurement was not obtained at the outset.

This issue is still being debated by the IPSAB. It is of major importance in the financial reporting of the social policies of governments.



## 3.4 Charities

Charities are regulated by accounting standards, charity law, relevant company law and best practice. This will vary from country to country. Here we are taking the UK as a typical example.

### 3.4.1 Statement of financial activities

In addition to a statement of financial position, charities also produce a Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), an Annual Report to the Charity Commission and sometimes an income and expenditure account. The Statement of Financial Activities is the primary statement showing the results of the charity's activities for the period.

The SOFA shows Incoming resources, Resources expended, and the resultant Net movement in funds. Under incoming resources, income from all sources of funds are listed. These can include:

- Subscription or membership fees
- Public donations
- Donations from patrons
- Government grants
- Income from sale of goods
- Investment income
- Publication sales
- Royalties

The resources expended will show the amount spent directly in furtherance of the Charity's objects. It will also show items which form part of any statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, such as salaries, depreciation, travelling and entertaining, audit and other professional fees. These items can be very substantial.

Charities, especially the larger charities, now operate very much in the way that profit-making entities do. They run high-profile campaigns which cost money and they employ professional people who have to be paid. At the same time, their stakeholders will want to see that most of their donation is not going on running the business, rather than achieving the aims for which funds were donated.

One of the problems charities experience is that, even although the accruals basis is being applied, they will still have income and expenditure recognised in different periods, due to the difficulty of correlating them. The extreme example is a campaign to persuade people to leave money to the charity in their will. The costs will have to be recognised, but there is no way to predict when the income will arise.

## 4 The not-for-profit sector: performance measurement

Not-for-profit and public sector entities produce financial statements in the same way as profit-making entities do but, while they are expected to remain solvent, their performance cannot be measured simply by the bottom line.

A public sector entity is not expected to show a profit or to underspend its budget. In practice, central government and local government departments know that if they underspend the budget, next year's allocation will be correspondingly reduced. This leads to a rash of digging up the roads and other expenditure just before the end of the financial year as councils strive to spend any remaining funds.

Private and public sector entities are judged principally on the basis of what they have achieved, not how much or how little they have spent in achieving it. So how is performance measured?

### 4.1 Public sector entities

These will have performance measures laid down by government. The emphasis is on economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Departments and local councils have to show how they have spent public money and what level of service they have achieved. Performance measurement will be based on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Examples of these for a local council could be:

- Number of homeless people rehoused
- % of rubbish collections made on time
- Number of children in care adopted

Public sector entities use the services of outside contractors for a variety of functions. They then have to be able to show that they have obtained the best possible value for what they have spent on outside services. This principle is usually referred to as Value For Money (VFM). In the UK, local authorities are required to report under a system known as Best Value. They have to show that they applied 'fair competition' in awarding contracts.

Best Value is based on the principle of the 'four Cs':

- 1 **Challenging** why, how and by whom a service is provided
- 2 **Comparing** performance against other local authorities
- 3 **Consulting** service users, the local community etc
- 4 Using fair **Competition** to secure efficient and effective services

## 4.2 Charities

While charities must demonstrate that they have made proper use of whatever funds they have received, their stakeholders will be more interested in what they have achieved in terms of their stated mission. People who donate money to a relief fund for earthquake victims will want to know what help has been given to survivors, before enquiring how well the organisation has managed its funds. Although it must be said that any mismanagement of funds by a charity is taken very seriously by the donating public.

Some charities produce 'impact reports' which highlight what the charity set out to achieve, what it has achieved and what it has yet to do. Stakeholders should know what the organisation is aiming to achieve and how it is succeeding. Each charity will have its own performance indicators which enable it to measure this.



### Question

### Definite variables

Choose a charity with which you are familiar and produce a possible set of performance indicators for it.

## 5 Entity reconstructions

**Note.** Group reorganisations are covered in [Chapter 14](#).

### FAST FORWARD

- You need to identify when an entity may no longer be viewed as a **going concern** and why a reconstruction might be an appropriate alternative to a liquidation.
- You will not need to suggest a scheme of **reconstruction**, but you will need an outline of the accounting treatment.

### 5.1 Background

Most of a Study Text on financial accounting is inevitably concerned with profitable, even expanding businesses. It must of course be recognised that some companies fail. From a theoretical discounted cash flow viewpoint, a company should be wound up if the expected return on its value in liquidation is less than that required. In practice (and in law), a company is regarded as **insolvent** if it is unable to pay its debts.

This terms needs some qualification. It is not uncommon, for example, to find a company that continues to trade and pays its creditors on time despite the fact that its liabilities exceed its assets. On the other hand, a company may be unable to meet its current liabilities although it has substantial sums locked up in assets which cannot be liquidated sufficiently quickly.

The procedures and options open to a failing company will depend on the degree of financial difficulties it faces. If the outlook is hopeless, liquidation may be the only feasible solution. However, many firms in serious financial positions can be revived to the benefit of creditors, members and society. When considering any scheme of arrangement it is important to remember that the **protection of creditors** is usually of paramount importance. The position of the shareholders and in particular, the protection of class rights, must be considered but the creditors come first.

### Exam focus point

This section considers some possibilities, but local legislation will govern these situations. In an exam, simply follow the instructions in the question.

## 5.2 Going concern

### Key term

**Going concern.** The entity is normally viewed as a going concern, that is, as continuing in operation for the foreseeable future. It is assumed that the entity has neither the intention nor the necessity of liquidation or of curtailing materially the scale of its operations. *(Conceptual Framework)*

It is generally assumed that the entity has no intention to liquidate or curtail major operations. If it did, then the financial statements would be prepared on a **different (disclosed) basis**. Indications that an entity may no longer be a going concern include the following (from International Standard on Auditing, ISA 570 *Going concern*):

- (a) **Financial indicators**, eg recurring operating losses, net liability or net current liability position, negative cash flow from operating activities, adverse key financial ratios, inability to obtain financing for essential new product development or other essential investments, default on loan or similar agreements, arrear as in dividends, denial of usual trade credit from suppliers, restructuring of debt, non-compliance with statutory capital requirements, need to seek new sources or methods of financing or to dispose of substantial assets.
- (b) **Operating matters**, eg loss of key management without replacement, loss of a major market, key customers, licence, or principal suppliers, labour difficulties, shortages of important supplies or the emergence of a highly successful competitor.
- (c) **Other matters**, eg pending legal or regulatory proceedings against the entity, changes in law or regulations that may adversely affect the entity; or uninsured or underinsured catastrophe such as a drought, earthquake or flood.

## 5.3 Internal reconstructions

A company may be able to enter into **any type of scheme** regarding either its creditors or its shareholders as long as the scheme does not conflict with general law or any particular statutory provision.

For a reconstruction of this type to be considered worthwhile in the first place, the business must have some **future** otherwise it might be better for the creditors if the company went into liquidation.

In any **scaling down of claims** from creditors and loan stock holders, two conditions should be met.

- (a) A reasonable chance of successful operations
- (b) Fairness to parties

### 5.3.1 First example: Reconstruction scheme

Boswell Co has been making losses over the last few years. Its statement of financial position at 31 December 20X1 showed the following.

|                      | \$            |             | \$            |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Ordinary capital     | 50,000        | Plant       | 40,000        |
| Retained earnings    | (70,000)      | Inventory   | 10,000        |
| Loan stock (secured) | 50,000        | Receivables | 20,000        |
| Payables             | 40,000        |             |               |
|                      | <u>70,000</u> |             | <u>70,000</u> |

On liquidation, the assets would realise the following.

|             | \$            |
|-------------|---------------|
| Plant       | 15,000        |
| Inventory   | 6,000         |
| Receivables | 18,000        |
|             | <u>39,000</u> |

If the company continued to trade for the next four years, profits after charging \$10,000 per annum depreciation on the plant would be as follows.

|      | \$            |
|------|---------------|
| 20X2 | 2,000         |
| 20X3 | 10,000        |
| 20X4 | 13,000        |
| 20X5 | 14,000        |
|      | <u>39,000</u> |

Assuming that there would be no surplus cash to repay the creditors and loan stock holders until after four years and that inventory and receivables could then be realised at their book values, you are required to prepare a reconstruction scheme. Ignore taxation.

## Solution

If liquidation took place now only \$39,000 would be raised which would be given to the loan stock holders leaving them with a deficiency of \$11,000. There would be nothing for the creditors and shareholders. However, if trading continues for the next four years and estimated results are achieved, the cash available would be as follows.

|                                       | \$             |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Profits                               | 39,000         |
| Depreciation                          | 40,000         |
| Inventory and receivables: full value | 30,000         |
|                                       | <u>109,000</u> |

\$90,000 would enable the loan stock holders and creditors to be paid in full leaving \$19,000 available for the ordinary shareholders.

Everyone will be better off if the company is allowed to continue trading. However, the loan stock holders probably have the right to appoint a receiver and would insist on some compensation for not enforcing their right. The creditors might also expect something for having to wait four years before receiving some payment.

There is no unique solution to such a question but one that might be acceptable would be for the loan stock holders and creditors to waive the amounts owed to them in exchange for ordinary shares, so that they will have full participation in the future profitability of the company. Terms of such an exchange might be as follows.

- (a) 37,500 \$1 ordinary shares to the loan stock holders (3 \$1 ordinary shares for every \$4 of loan stock)
- (b) 20,000 \$1 ordinary shares to the creditors (1 \$1 ordinary share for every \$2 due)
- (c) 12,500 \$1 ordinary shares to the old ordinary shareholders (1 \$1 ordinary share for every 4 of the old \$1 ordinary shares)

The creditors might prefer to receive loan stock as they would then have a legal right to repayment of nominal capital and could also insist on payment of interest.

The reconstructed statement of financial position of Boswell Co at 31 December 20X1 would then be as follows.

|                  |               |             |               |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
|                  | \$            |             | \$            |
| Ordinary capital | 70,000        | Plant       | 40,000        |
|                  |               | Inventory   | 10,000        |
|                  |               | Receivables | 20,000        |
|                  | <u>70,000</u> |             | <u>70,000</u> |

### 5.3.2 Accounting procedures for internal reconstructions

The normal procedure to undertake an internal reconstruction scheme are as follows.

- Step 1** Open a reorganisation account.
- Step 2** Transfer in all shares/ loan stock to be replaced.
- Step 3** Put through all asset write-downs/revaluations and expenses of the scheme.
- Step 4** Issue new shares/ loan stock from this account.
- Step 5** Transfer the balance to a capital reserve (or write off against, eg a share premium account, if it is a debit balance).

In practice, schemes of reduction of capital can be very complex, but they must be fair to all parties concerned. Where arrears of dividend on cumulative preferred shares are involved, an arrangement must be found to compensate the shareholders for giving up their rights to the arrears, for example by issuing them with fixed interest loan stock.

## 5.4 External reconstructions

A court may make orders for the transfer of all the company's assets and liabilities and for its **dissolution**. Such a scheme might provide for the formation of a new company to take over the undertaking of the old company, or an amalgamation, to acquire the undertakings of a number of companies, the members and creditors of which accept shares or loan stock in the new company in exchange for their former rights.

### 5.4.1 Second example: Reconstruction scheme

Extracts from the statement of financial position of Brave World Co are as follows.

|                                 | <i>Debit</i>   | <i>Credit</i>  |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                 | \$             | \$             |
| Ordinary \$1 shares, fully paid |                | 70,000         |
| Payables                        |                | 32,100         |
| Inventory                       | 29,000         |                |
| Receivables                     | 16,000         |                |
| Cash                            | 100            |                |
| Patents                         | 30,000         |                |
| Preliminary expenses            | 2,000          |                |
| Retained earnings               | <u>25,000</u>  |                |
|                                 | <u>102,100</u> | <u>102,100</u> |

A scheme of reconstruction was agreed by the shareholders and creditors of the company.

- (a) The company to go into voluntary liquidation and a new company, New Brave World Co, to be formed with an authorised share capital of \$50,000 which will take over the assets and liabilities of the old company.
- (b) The inventory, receivables and cash of the old company to be taken over at book value. The patents are subject to adjustment.

- (c) Creditors are to receive settlement as follows.
- |  | \$            |
|--|---------------|
| (i) Preferential creditors to be paid in full  | 2,100         |
| (ii) \$20,000 of unsecured creditors to be discharged for a cash compensation of 80c in the \$ | 20,000        |
| (iii) \$10,000 of unsecured creditors to accept \$12,000 6% loan stock in the new company      | 10,000        |
| Book value   | <u>32,100</u> |
- (d) 50,000 \$1 ordinary shares in New Brave World Co to be issued, 50c already paid up to shareholders in the old company and 50c payable on application and allotment to make the shares fully paid up.
- (e) Costs of liquidation amounting to \$1,000 will be paid by the new company as part of the purchase consideration.

*Required*

Prepare the statement of financial position of the new company.

## Solution

### NEW BRAVE WORLD CO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

|  | \$            |                       | \$            |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Authorised, issued and fully paid ordinary share capital |               | Inventories           | 29,000        |
| 50,000 shares of \$1 each                                | 50,000        | Receivables           | 16,000        |
| 6% loan stock  | <u>12,000</u> | Cash (W3)             | 6,000         |
|  | <u>62,000</u> | Patents, at cost (W2) | <u>11,000</u> |
|  |               |                       | <u>62,000</u> |

*Workings*

|   |  |               |
|---|--|---------------|
| 1 | <i>Purchase consideration</i>                    | \$            |
|   | Cash   |               |
|   | To pay off creditors (\$2,100 + 80% of \$20,000) | 18,100        |
|   | Liquidation expenses                             | <u>1,000</u>  |
|   |  | 19,100        |
|   | Loan stock                                       | 12,000        |
|   | Paid up part of new shares                       | <u>25,000</u> |
|   |  | <u>56,100</u> |
| 2 | <i>Assets</i>                                    | \$            |
|   | Inventories                                      | 29,000        |
|   | Receivables                                      | 16,000        |
|   | Cash   | <u>100</u>    |
|   |  | 45,100        |
|   | Patents at cost (balance)                        | <u>11,000</u> |
|   |  | <u>56,100</u> |
| 3 | <i>Cash balance</i>                              | \$            |
|   | Cash from shareholders                           | 25,000        |
|   | Cash acquired from old company                   | <u>100</u>    |
|   |  | 25,100        |
|   | Less cash payments in purchase consideration     | <u>19,100</u> |
|   | Cash balance held                                | <u>6,000</u>  |

## 5.5 Transfer of assets to a new company

Another form of reconstruction is by means of **voluntary liquidation** whereby the liquidator transfers the assets of the company to a new company in exchange for shares or other securities in the new company. The old company may be able to retain certain of its assets, usually cash, and make a distribution to the shareholders of the old company who still have an interest in the undertaking through their shareholding in the new company. There may be various rules governing the protection of non-controlling shareholders.

Such a procedure would be applied to the company which is proposed to be or is in course of being wound up voluntarily. A company in liquidation must dispose of its assets (other than cash) by sale in order to pay its debts and distribute any surplus to its members. The special feature of this kind of reconstruction is that the business or property of Company P is transferred to Company Q in **exchange for shares** of the latter company which are allotted direct or distributed by the liquidator to members of Company P. Obviously the creditors of Company P will have to be paid cash.

Finding the cash to pay creditors and to buy out shareholders who object to the scheme is often the major drawback to a scheme of this kind. It is unlikely to be used much because the same result can be more satisfactorily achieved by a **takeover**: Company Q simply acquires the share capital of Company P, which becomes its subsidiary, and the assets and liabilities are transferred from the subsidiary to the new holding company. In this situation usually no cash has to be found (although obviously there is no guarantee of success).

The **advantage** of transferring a business from one company to another (with the same shareholders in the end) is that by this means the business may be moved away from a company with a tangled history to a new company which makes a fresh start. As explained above this procedure can also be used to effect a merger of two companies each with an existing business.

### 5.5.1 Accounting procedures for a transfer to a new company

The basic procedure when transferring the undertaking to a new company is as follows.

- (a) To close off the ledger accounts in the books of the old company.
- (b) To open up the ledger accounts in the books of the new company.

The basic procedure is as follows.

**Step 1** Open a **realisation account** and transfer in all the assets and liabilities to be taken over by the new company at book value.

**Step 2** Open a **sundry members account** with columns for ordinary and preference shareholders. Transfer in the share capital, reserve balances, assets written off and gains and losses on realisation.

**Step 3** With the **purchase consideration** for the members:

|        |                    |                 |
|--------|--------------------|-----------------|
| DEBIT  | Sundry members a/c |                 |
| CREDIT |                    | Realisation a/c |

Take any profit or loss on realisation to the sundry members account (ordinary).

**Step 4** In the new company, open a **purchase of business account**:

|   |
|---|
| CREDIT it with assets taken over<br>(DEBIT asset accounts)                  |
| DEBIT it with liabilities taken over<br>(CREDIT liabilities a/cs)           |
| DEBIT it with the purchase consideration<br>(CREDIT shares, loan stock etc) |

Any balance is goodwill or a gain on a bargain purchase.

## Chapter Roundup

- Questions on specialist entities will be set in terms of **current IFRS**.
- The not-for-profit sector includes **public sector entities** and **private** not-for-profit entities such as charities.
- Not-for-profit entities have **different goals** from profit making entities, but they still need to be **properly managed** and their accounts need to present the information fairly.
- The **IASB** and the **FASB** are working on a **framework** for reporting, which includes not-for-profit entities.
- The International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSAB) is developing a set of **International Public Sector Accounting Standards** based on IFRS.
- You need to identify when an entity may no longer be viewed as a **going concern** and why a reconstruction might be an appropriate alternative to a liquidation.
- You will not need to suggest a scheme of **reconstruction**, but you will need an outline of the accounting treatment.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 Charities are public sector entities. *True or false?*
- 2 Why do not-for-profit entities need to keep accounts if they are not reporting to shareholders?
- 3 Are there any special IFRSs for the public sector?
- 4 What are steps 1 and 2 in the normal procedure for accounting for internal reconstructions?

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 False. charities are private not-for-profit profit entities.
- 2 They often deal in large sums of money.
- 3 Yes, the IPSASB is developing a set of International Public Sector Accounting Standards.
- 4 Step 1: Open a reorganisation account  
Step 2: Transfer all shares/ loan stock to be replaced.

Now try the questions below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level        | Marks | Time    |
|--------|--------------|-------|---------|
| Q24    | Examination  | 25    | 45 mins |
| Q25    | Introductory | n/a   | n/a     |



# 21

## Reporting for small and medium-sized entities

| Topic list  | Syllabus reference |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 Background                                      | E2                 |
| 2 Application of IFRS to smaller entities         | E2                 |
| 3 <i>IFRS for Small and Medium-Sized Entities</i> | E2                 |
| 4 Consequences, good and bad                      | E2                 |

### Introduction

Concentrate on Section 1 – this is the most important for your exam.

You should be aware that smaller entities may have different accounting needs from the larger entities, but IFRS are generally designed for larger ones. This chapter gives you the background you need to set you thinking about whether a one-size-fits-all set of standards is adequate.

## Study guide

|            |   | Intellectual level |
|------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>C11</b> | <b>Reporting requirements of small and medium entities (SMEs)</b>   |                    |
| (a)        | Outline the principal considerations in developing a set of accounting standards for SMEs   | 3                  |
| (b)        | Discuss solutions to the problem of differential financial reporting  | 3                  |
| (c)        | Discuss the reasons why the IFRS for SMEs does not address certain topics   | 3                  |
| (d)        | Discuss the accounting treatments not allowable under the IFRS for SMEs including the revaluation model for certain assets and proportionate consolidation  | 3                  |
| (e)        | Discuss and apply the simplifications introduced by the IFRS for SMEs including accounting for goodwill and intangible assets, financial instruments, defined benefit schemes, exchange differences and associates and joint ventures | 3                  |

## Exam guide

This topic has a separate syllabus section, indicating that the examiner regards it as important and topical.

### 1 Background

12/10

#### FAST FORWARD

IFRSs are designed for entities quoted on the world's capital markets. However, **most entities are small or medium sized**.

#### 1.1 Scope of IFRS

Any limitation of the applicability of a specific IFRS is made clear within that standard. IFRSs are **not intended to be applied to immaterial items, nor are they retrospective**. Each individual IFRS lays out its scope at the beginning of the standard.

#### 1.2 Application

Within each individual country **local regulations** govern, to a greater or lesser degree, the issue of financial statements. These local regulations include accounting standards issued by the national regulatory bodies and/or professional accountancy bodies in the country concerned.

The IFRSs **concentrate on essentials** and are designed not to be too complex, otherwise they would be impossible to apply on a worldwide basis.

**IFRSs do not override local regulations on financial statements**. Accounting bodies that are members of the IASB should simply disclose the fact where IFRSs are complied with in all material respects. Members of the IASB in individual countries will attempt to persuade local authorities, where current regulations deviate from IFRSs, that the benefits of harmonisation make local change worthwhile.

### 2 Application of IFRS to smaller entities

12/10

#### FAST FORWARD

Various approaches were proposed to deal with the so-called **Big GAAP/Little GAAP divide**.

## 2.1 Big GAAP /little GAAP divide

In most countries the majority of companies or other types of entity are **very small**. They are generally owned and managed by one person or a family. The owners have invested their own money in the business and there are no outside shareholders to protect.

**Large entities**, by contrast, particularly companies listed on a stock exchange, may have shareholders who have invested their money, possibly through a pension fund, with no knowledge whatever of the company. These shareholders need protection and the regulations for such companies need to be more stringent.

It could therefore be argued that company accounts should be of two types.

- (a) 'Simple' ones for small companies with fewer regulations and disclosure requirements
- (b) 'Complicated' ones for larger companies with extensive and detailed requirements

This is sometimes called the **big GAAP/little GAAP divide**.

## 2.2 Possible solutions

There are two approaches to overcoming the big GAAP/little GAAP divide:

- 1 Differential reporting, ie producing new reduced standards specifically for smaller companies, such as the UK FRSE or the IFRS for SMEs (see below.)
- 2 Providing exemptions for smaller companies from some of the requirements of existing standards.

## 2.3 Differential reporting

A one-size-fits-all framework does not generate relevant, and useful information, even if this information is reliable:

- (a) The costs may not be justified for the more limited needs of users of SME accounts.
- (b) The purpose of the financial statements and the use to which they are put will not be the same as for listed companies.

Differential reporting overcomes this by tailoring the reporting requirements to the entity. The main characteristic that distinguishes SMEs from other entities is the degree of public accountability. For example, a listed company or a public utility, or a company such as a bank, which holds assets in a fiduciary capacity might be regarded as publicly accountable. Despite the name SME, size is not the only or even the main criterion. (This was the position the IASB adopted – see below. )

Differential reporting may have drawbacks in terms of reducing comparability between small and larger company accounts.

Furthermore, problems may arise where entities no longer meet the criteria to be classified as small.

## 2.4 Exemptions from IFRS

Some IFRSs do not have any bearing on small company accounts, for example, a company with equity not quoted on a stock exchange has no need to comply with IAS 33 *Earnings per share*. Also an entity with a small local market, may find IFRS 8 *Operating segments* to be superfluous.

Other standards always have an impact. In particular, almost all small companies will be affected by the IFRSs on:

- Property, plant and equipment
- Inventories
- Presentation of financial statements
- Events occurring after the reporting period
- Taxes on income
- Revenue
- Provisions and contingencies

Does this mean that companies below a certain size should be exempt from other IFRSs? An alternative approach would be to reduce the exposure of small companies to IFRSs on a **standard by standard basis**. For those 'core' standards listed above, small companies would be required to follow all or most of their provisions. For more complicated standards, small companies would face nothing but very brief general obligations.

It is difficult to see how the IASB could impose any kind of specific size limits to define small companies if such an approach were adopted. Instead, it might specify that size limits which are already given in national legislation or standards could be adopted for the purpose.

To a certain extent (see IAS 33 and IFRS 8 above) partial exemption already applies. Indeed, an IFRS for Small and Medium-sized Entities that applies some but not all of the requirements of existing IFRS achieves this aim.

### 2.4.1 Cost of compliance

If the cost of compliance exceeds the benefits to users, an entity may decide not to follow an IFRS. This applies to all reporting entities, not just smaller ones. However, smaller entities are more likely to make use of this exception.

For example, impairment reviews can be time-consuming and a smaller entity may not have sufficient staff to spare to carry out these reviews.

### 2.4.2 Materiality

Another point to note is that IFRSs apply to **material** items. In the case of smaller entities, the amount that is material may be very small in monetary terms. However, the effect of not reporting that item may be material in that it would mislead users of the financial statements. A case in point is IAS 24 *Related Party Disclosures*. Smaller entities may well rely on trade with relatives of the directors/shareholders and this needs to be disclosed.

## 3 International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities

12/10

#### FAST FORWARD

Published in July 2009, the *IFRS for Small and Medium-sized Entities* aims to simplify financial reporting for SMEs by omitting irrelevant topics, reducing guidance and disclosure and eliminating choice. It also simplifies some of the recognition and measurement principles.

The *IFRS for Small and Medium-Sized Entities* (IFRS for SMEs) was published in 2009. It is only 230 pages, and has simplifications that reflect the needs of users of SMEs' financial statements and cost-benefit considerations. It is designed to facilitate financial reporting by small and medium-sized entities in a number of ways:

- (a) It provides significantly less guidance than full IFRS.
- (b) Many of the principles for recognising and measuring assets, liabilities, income and expenses in full IFRSs are simplified.
- (c) Where full IFRSs allow accounting policy choices, the IFRS for SMEs allows only the easier option.
- (d) Topics not relevant to SMEs are omitted.
- (e) Significantly fewer disclosures are required.
- (f) The standard has been written in clear language that can easily be translated.

### 3.1 Scope

The IFRS is suitable for all entities except those whose securities are publicly traded and financial institutions such as banks and insurance companies. It is the first set of international accounting requirements developed specifically for small and medium-sized entities (SMEs). Although it has been prepared on a similar basis to IFRS, it is a stand-alone product and will be updated on its own timescale.

The IFRS will be revised only once every three years. It is hoped that this will further reduce the reporting burden for SMEs.

There are no quantitative thresholds for qualification as a SME; instead, the scope of the IFRS is determined by a test of public accountability. As with full IFRS, it is up to legislative and regulatory authorities and standard setters in individual jurisdictions to decide who is permitted or required to use the IFRS for SMEs.

### 3.2 Effective date

The IFRS for SMEs does not contain an effective date; this is determined in each jurisdiction. The IFRS will be revised only once every three years. It is hoped that this will further reduce the reporting burden for SMEs.

### 3.3 Accounting policies

For situations where the IFRS for SMEs does not provide specific guidance, it provides a hierarchy for determining a suitable accounting policy. An SME must consider, in descending order:

- The guidance in the IFRS for SMEs on similar and related issues.
- The definitions, recognition criteria and measurement concepts in Section 2 *Concepts and Pervasive Principles* of the standard.

The entity also has the option of considering the requirements and guidance in full IFRS dealing with similar topics. However, it is under no obligation to do this, or to consider the pronouncements of other standard setters.

### 3.4 Overlap with full IFRS

In the following areas, the recognition and measurement guidance in the IFRS for SMEs is like that in the full IFRS.

- Provisions and contingencies
- Hyperinflation accounting
- Events after the end of the reporting period

### 3.5 Omitted topics

The IFRS for SMEs does not address the following topics that are covered in full IFRS.

- Earnings per share
- Interim financial reporting
- Segment reporting
- Classification for non-current assets (or disposal groups) as held for sale

### 3.6 Examples of options in full IFRS not included in the IFRS for SMEs

- Revaluation model for intangible assets and property, plant and equipment
- Choice between cost and fair value models for investment property (measurement depends on the circumstances)
- Options for government grants

### 3.7 Principal recognition and measurement simplifications

(a) **Financial instruments**

Financial instruments meeting specified criteria are measured at cost or amortised cost. All others are measured at fair value through profit or loss. The procedure for derecognition has been simplified, as have hedge accounting requirements.

(b) **Goodwill and other indefinite-life intangibles**

These are always amortised over their estimated useful life (or ten years if it cannot be estimated).

(c) **Investments in associates and joint ventures**

These can be measured at cost, but fair value must be used if there is a published price quotation.

(d) **Research and development costs and borrowing costs** must be expensed.

(e) **Property, plant and equipment and intangibles**

There is no need to review residual value, useful life and depreciation method unless there is an indication that they have changed since the most recent reporting date.

(f) **Defined benefit plans**

All actuarial gains and losses are to be recognised immediately (in profit or loss or other comprehensive income). All past service costs are to be recognised immediately in profit or loss. To measure the defined benefit obligation, the projected unit credit method must be used.

**Note.** IAS 19 has been revised and has incorporated these simplifications.

(g) **Income tax**

When published, the *IFRS for SMEs* said to follow the ED *Income tax*, which simplified IAS 12. This ED has been withdrawn, but it is likely that the treatment of income tax will be simpler in the *IFRS for SMEs* when this is replaced.

(h) **Available-for-sale assets**

There is no separate available-for-sale classification; holding an asset or group of assets for sale is an indicator of impairment.

(i) **Biological assets**

SMEs are to use the cost-depreciation-impairment model unless the fair value is readily determinable, in which case the fair value through profit or loss model is required.

(j) **Equity-settled share-based payment**

If observable market prices are not available to measure the fair value of the equity-settled share-based payment, the directors' best estimate is used.

## 4 Consequences, good and bad

12/10

**FAST FORWARD**

There is **no perfect solution** to the Big GAAP/Little GAAP divide. It remains to be seen how well *the IFRS for SMEs* will work in practice.

### 4.1 Likely effect

Because there is no supporting guidance in the IFRS for SMEs, it is likely that differences will arise from full IFRS, even where the principles are the same. Most of the exemptions in the IFRS for SMEs are on grounds of cost or undue effort. However, despite the practical advantages of a simpler reporting framework, there will be costs involved for those moving to IFRS – even a simplified IFRS – for the first time.

## 4.2 Advantages and disadvantages of the IFRS for SMEs

### 4.2.1 Advantages

- (a) It is virtually a '**one stop shop**'.
- (b) It is **structured according to topics**, which should make it practical to use.
- (c) It is written in an **accessible style**.
- (d) There is **considerable reduction in disclosure requirements**.
- (e) Guidance **not relevant** to private entities is **excluded**.

### 4.2.2 Disadvantages

- (a) It does **not** focus on the **smallest companies**.
- (b) The scope extends to 'non-publicly accountable' entities. Potentially, the **scope is too wide**.
- (c) The standard will be **onerous** for **small companies**.
- (d) **Further simplifications** could be made. These might include:
  - (i) Amortisation for goodwill and intangibles
  - (ii) No requirement to value intangibles separately from goodwill on a business combination
  - (iii) No recognition of deferred tax
  - (iv) No measurement rules for equity-settled share-based payment
  - (v) No requirement for consolidated accounts (as for EU small and medium-sized entities currently)
  - (vi) All leases accounted for as operating leases with enhanced disclosures
  - (vii) Fair value measurement when readily determinable without undue cost or effort.

## Chapter Roundup

- IFRSs are designed for entities quoted on the world's capital markets. However, **most entities are small or medium sized**.
- Various approaches were proposed to deal with the so-called **Big GAAP/Little GAAP divide**.
- Published in July 2009, the *IFRS for Small and Medium-sized Entities* aims to simplify financial reporting for SMEs by omitting irrelevant topics, reducing guidance and disclosure and eliminating choice. It also simplifies some of the recognition and measurement principles.
- There is **no perfect solution** to the Big GAAP/Little GAAP divide. It remains to be seen how well the *IFRS for SMEs* will work in practice.

## Quick Quiz

- 1 What is differential financial reporting?
- 2 The treatment of provisions is simpler in the *IFRS for SMEs* than in IAS 37. *True or false?*
- 3 The financial instruments categories 'held-to-maturity' and 'available-for-sale' are not included in the *IFRS for SMEs*. *True or false?*
- 4 Proportionate consolidation of investments in jointly controlled entities is allowed in:
  - A IAS 31 only
  - B IAS 31 and the *IFRS for SMEs*
  - C The *IFRS for SMEs* only
  - D It is not allowed anywhere

## Answers to Quick Quiz

- 1 Producing new reduced standards specifically for smaller companies.
- 2 False. Provisions are one area in which the recognition and measurement guidance in the *IFRS for SMEs* is like that in the full IFRS.
- 3 True, and once IFRS 9 is in force they will no longer be available in full IFRS.
- 4 D. It is not allowed at all. IFRS 11 has been issued to reflect this, but the *IFRS for SMEs* was there first.

Now try the questions below from the Exam Question Bank

| Number | Level       | Marks | Time    |
|--------|-------------|-------|---------|
| Q26    | Examination | 25    | 45 mins |
| Q28    | Examination | 25    | 45 mins |
| Q29    | Examination | 50    | 90 mins |



# Exam question and answer bank



# 1 Conceptual Framework

- (a) Explain the main purposes of the International Accounting Standards Board's *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*.
- (b) Identify any four user groups of financial statements and explain what information they are likely to want from them.

## 2 Fundamental principles

Fundamental principles require that a member of a professional accountancy body should behave with integrity in all professional, business and financial relationships and should strive for objectivity in all professional and business judgements. Objectivity can only be assured if the member is and is seen to be independent. Conflicts of interest have an important bearing on independence and hence also on the public's perception of the integrity, objectivity and independence of the accounting profession.

The following scenario is an example of press reports in recent years which deal with issues of objectivity and independence within a multinational firm of accountants:

'A partner in the firm was told by the regulatory body that he must resign because he was in breach of the regulatory body's independence rules, as his brother-in-law was financial controller of an audit client. He was told that the alternative was that he could move his home and place of work at least 400 miles from the offices of the client, even though he was not the reporting partner. This made his job untenable. The regulatory body was seen as 'taking its rules to absurd lengths' by the accounting firm. Shortly after this comment, the multinational firm announced proposals to split the firm into three areas between audit, tax and business advisory services; management consultancy; and investment advisory services'.

### *Required*

Discuss the impact that the above events may have on the public perception of the integrity, objectivity and independence of the multinational firm of accountants.

## 3 Tree

You are the accountant of Tree, a listed limited liability company that prepares consolidated financial statements. Your Managing Director, who is not an accountant, has recently attended a seminar at which key financial reporting issues were discussed. She remembers being told the following.

- Financial statements of an entity should reflect the substance of its transactions;
- Revenue from the 'sale' of goods should only be recognised when certain conditions have been satisfied. Transfer of legal title to the goods is not necessarily sufficient for an entity to recognise revenue from their 'sale'.

The year end of Tree is 31 August. In the year to 31 August 20X1, the company entered into the following transactions.

### *Transaction 1*

On 1 March 20X1, Tree sold a property to a bank for \$5 million. The market value of the property at the date of the sale was \$10 million. Tree continues to occupy the property rent-free. Tree has the option to buy the property back from the bank at the end of every month from 31 March 20X1 until 28 February 20X6. Tree has not yet exercised this option. The repurchase price will be \$5 million plus \$50,000 for every complete month that has elapsed from the date of sale to the date of repurchase. The bank cannot require Tree to repurchase the property and the facility lapses after 28 February 20X6. The directors of Tree expect property prices to rise at around 5% each year for the foreseeable future.

### *Transaction 2*

On 1 September 20X0, Tree sold one of its branches to Vehicle for \$8 million. The net assets of the branch in the financial statements of Tree immediately before the sale were \$7 million. Vehicle is a subsidiary of a bank and was specifically incorporated to carry out the purchase – it has no other business operations. Vehicle received the \$8 million to finance this project from its parent in the form of a loan.

Tree continues to control the operations of the branch and receives an annual operating fee from Vehicle. The annual fee is the operating profit of the branch for the 12 months to the previous 31 August less the interest payable on the loan taken out by Vehicle for the 12 months to the previous 31 August. If this amount is negative, then Tree must pay the negative amount to Vehicle.

Any payments to or by Tree must be made by 30 September following the end of the relevant period. In the year to 31 August 20X1, the branch made an operating profit of \$2,000,000. Interest payable by Vehicle on the loan for this period was \$800,000.

*Required*

- (a) Explain the conditions that need to be satisfied before revenue can be recognised from the sale of goods. You should support your answer with reference to International Accounting Standards as appropriate.
- (b) Explain how the transactions described above will be dealt with in the consolidated financial statements (statement of financial position and statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income) of Tree for the year ended 31 August 20X1.

## 4 Camel Telecom (25 marks)

**45 mins**

Camel Telecom operates in the telecommunications industry under the name Mobistar which it developed itself. Camel has entered into a number of transactions relating to non-current assets on which it would like accounting advice.

- (a) Camel won the government contest to be awarded a licence to operate 3.5G services. Only 4 such licences were available in the country. Under the terms of the agreement, Camel can operate 3.5G mobile phone services for a period of 10 years from the commencement of the licence which was 1 July 20X7. During that period Camel can sell the licence on if it chooses to another operator meeting certain government criteria, and sharing any profits made equally with the government.

Camel paid \$344m for the licence on 1 July 20X7. Its market value was estimated at \$370m at that date.

Due to lower take up than expected of 3.5G services, the fair value of the licence was valued at \$335m at the company's year end 30 June 20X8, by Valyou, a professional services firm.

**(6 marks)**

- (b) In September 20X7, Camel has purchased a plot of land on which it intends to build its new head office and service centre in 2 years' time. In the meantime the land is rented out to a local farm. The land cost \$10.4m. It has been valued at the year end by Valyou and has a value of \$10.6m as farmland and \$14.3m as land for development. Planning permission is in process at the year end, but Camel's lawyer expects it to be granted by mid 20X9.

**(4 marks)**

- (c) Camel purchased a number of hilltop sites a number of years ago on which (after receiving planning permission), it erects mobile phone transmitter masts.

Because of the prime location of the sites, their market value has increased substantially since the original purchase. Camel is also able to lease part of the sites to other mobile communication companies.

**(4 marks)**

- (d) During the year, Camel did a deal with a mobile operator in another country whereby Camel sold its fixed line ADSL business to another company Purple for an agreed market value of \$320m and in return acquired Purple's mobile phone business in the other country. Camel paid \$980m to Purple in addition to the legal transfer of its fixed line ADSL business. Purple did not make any payment other than the transfer of its mobile business.

Under the terms of the agreement, the mobile phone business will remain under the name Purple for up to 1 year, after Camel time intends to re-brand the business under its own national and international mobile brand Mobistar.

**(5 marks)**

- (e) An embarrassing incident occurred in February 20X8 where a laptop containing details of all of Camel's national customers and the expiry date of their contracts was stolen. The details

subsequently fell into the hands of competitors who have been contacting Camel's clients when their Mobistar contracts are up for renewal.

As a result of this Camel has realised that the value of the client details is significant and propose to recognise a value determined by Valyou in its financial statements. This valuation of \$44m takes into account business expected to be lost as a result of the incident. **(4 marks)**

*Required*

Discuss, with suitable computations, how the above transactions should be accounted for in the financial statements of the Camel Telecom Group under IFRSs for the year ended 30 June 20X8.

All amounts are considered material to the group financial statements.

Professional marks for clarity and expression **(2 marks)**

## 5 Acquirer (25 marks)

**45 mins**

Acquirer is an entity that regularly purchases new subsidiaries. On 30 June 20X0, the entity acquired all the equity shares of Prospects for a cash payment of \$260 million. The net assets of Prospects on 30 June 20X0 were \$180 million and no fair value adjustments were necessary upon consolidation of Prospects for the first time.

On 31 December 20X0, Acquirer carried out a review of the goodwill on consolidation of Prospects for evidence of impairment. The review was carried out despite the fact that there were no obvious indications of adverse trading conditions for Prospects. The review involved allocating the net asset of Prospects into three cash-generating units and computing the value in use of each unit. The carrying values of the individual units before any impairment adjustments are given below.

|                               | <i>Unit A</i><br>\$ million | <i>Unit B</i><br>\$ million | <i>Unit C</i><br>\$ million |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Patents                       | 5                           |                             |                             |
| Property, plant and equipment | 60                          | 30                          | 40                          |
| Net current assets            | <u>20</u>                   | <u>25</u>                   | <u>20</u>                   |
|                               | <u>85</u>                   | <u>55</u>                   | <u>60</u>                   |
| Value in use of unit          | <u>72</u>                   | <u>60</u>                   | <u>65</u>                   |

It was not possible to meaningfully allocate the goodwill on consolidation to the individual cash-generating units, but all other net assets of Prospects are allocated in the table shown above. The patents of Prospects have no ascertainable market value but all the current assets have a market value that is above carrying value. The value in use of Prospects as a single cash-generating unit at 31 December 20X1 is £205 million.

*Required*

- (a) Explain what is meant by a cash generating unit. **(5 marks)**
- (b) Explain why it was necessary to review the goodwill on consolidation of Prospects for impairment at 31 December 20X0. **(3 marks)**
- (c) Explain briefly the purpose of an impairment review and why the net assets of Prospects were allocated into cash-generating units as part of the review of goodwill for impairment. **(5 marks)**
- (d) Demonstrate how the impairment loss in unit A will affect the carrying value of the net assets of unit A in the consolidated financial statements of Acquirer. **(5 marks)**
- (e) Explain and calculate the effect of the impairment review on the carrying value of the goodwill on consolidation of Prospects at 31 December 20X0. **(7 marks)**

## 6 Investor (25 marks)

45 mins

Investor is a listed company with a number of subsidiaries located throughout the United Kingdom. Investor currently appraises investment opportunities using a cost of capital of 10 per cent.

On 1 April 20X9 Investor purchased 80 per cent of the equity share capital of Cornwall for a total cash price of \$60m. Half the price was payable on 1 April 20X9; the balance was payable on 1 April 20Y1. The net identifiable assets that were actually included in the statement of financial position of Cornwall had a carrying value totalling \$55m at 1 April 20X9. With the exception of the pension provision (see below), you discover that the fair values of the net identifiable assets of Cornwall at 1 April 20X9 are the same as their carrying values. When performing the fair-value exercise at 1 April 20X9, you discover that Cornwall has a defined-benefit pension scheme that was actuarially valued three years ago and found to be in deficit. As a result of that valuation, a provision of \$6m has been built up in the statement of financial position. The fair-value exercise indicates that on 1 April 20X9, the pension scheme was in deficit by \$11m. This information became available on 31 July 20X9.

Assume that today's date is 31 October 20X9. You are in the process of preparing the consolidated financial statements of the group for the year ended 30 September 20X9. Intangible assets are normally written off on a pro-rata basis over twenty years. Your financial director is concerned that profits for the year will be lower than originally anticipated. She is therefore wondering about changing the accounting policy used by the group, so that all intangible assets are treated as having an indefinite useful life.

*Required*

- (a) Calculate the value of goodwill on acquisition of Cornwall in the consolidated accounts of Investor for the year ended 30 September 20X9. You should fully explain and justify all parts of the calculation. **(10 marks)**
- (b) Write a memorandum to your financial director.
  - (i) Evaluate the policy of writing off all intangible assets over twenty years
  - (ii) Explain whether it is ever permissible to select a longer write-off period for intangible assets, and describe the future implications of selecting such a period **(10 marks)**
- (c) Cornwall has purchased some valuable brands, which are included in the statement of financial position. Explain the justification for including purchased brands in the statement of financial position and how non-purchased brands should be treated. **(5 marks)**

## 7 Radost (12 marks)

22 mins

Radost, a public limited company, has a defined benefit pension plan for its staff. Staff are eligible for an annual pension between the date of their retirement and the date of their death equal to:

Annual pension =  $\frac{\text{Final salary per year}}{50} \times \text{years' service}$ .

You are given the following data relating to the year ended 31 December 20X3:

- (a) Yield on high quality corporate bonds: 10% pa.
- (b) Contributions paid by Radost to pension plan: \$12 million
- (c) Pensions paid to former employees: \$8 million
- (d) Current service cost was \$3.75 million
- (e) After consultation with employees, an amendment was agreed to the terms of the plan, reducing the benefits payable. The amendment takes effect from 31 December 20X3 and the actuary has calculated that the resulting reduction in the pension obligation is \$6 million.
- (f) NPV of the pension obligation at:
  - 1.1.X3 – \$45 million
  - 31.12.X3 – \$44 million (as given by the actuary, after adjusting for the plan amendment)

- (g) Fair value of the plan assets, as valued by the actuary:

1.1.X3 – \$52 million

31.12.X3 – \$64.17 million

*Required*

- (a) Produce the notes to the statement of financial position and statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in accordance with IAS 19.

(8 marks)

- (b) Explain why the pension plan assets are recognised in the financial statements of Radost, even though they are held in a separate legal trust for Radost's employees.

(4 marks)

**Notes:**

- 1 Work to the nearest \$1,000 throughout.

- 2 You should assume contributions and benefits were paid on the last day of the year.

## 8 DT Group (25 marks)

**45 mins**

- (a) IAS 12 *Income taxes* focuses on the statement of financial position in accounting for deferred taxation, which is calculated on the basis of temporary differences. The methods used in IAS 12 can lead to accumulation of large tax assets or liabilities over a prolonged period and this could be remedied by discounting these assets or liabilities. There is currently international disagreement over the discounting of deferred tax balances.

*Required*

- (i) Explain what the terms 'focus on the statement of financial position' and 'temporary differences' mean in relation to deferred taxation.

(6 marks)

- (ii) Discuss the arguments for and against discounting long-term deferred tax balances.

(6 marks)

- (b) DT, a public limited company, has decided to adopt the provisions of IFRSs for the first time in its financial statements for the year ending 30 November 20X1. The amounts of deferred tax provided as set out in the notes of the group financial statements for the year ending 30 November 20X0 were as follows:

|  | \$m      |
|--|----------|
| Tax depreciation in excess of accounting depreciation      | 38       |
| Other temporary differences                                | 11       |
| Liabilities for health care benefits                       | (12)     |
| Losses available for offset against future taxable profits | (34)     |
|  | <u>3</u> |

The following notes are relevant to the calculation of the deferred tax liability as at 30 November 20X1:

- (i) DT acquired a 100% holding in a foreign company on 30 November 20X1. The subsidiary does not plan to pay any dividends for the financial year to 30 November 20X1 or in the foreseeable future. The carrying amount in DT's consolidated financial statements of its investment in the subsidiary at 30 November 20X1 is made up as follows:

|  | \$m       |
|--|-----------|
| Carrying value of net assets acquired excluding deferred tax | 76        |
| Goodwill (before deferred tax and impairment losses)         | 14        |
| Carrying amount/cost of investment                           | <u>90</u> |

The tax base of the net assets of the subsidiary at acquisition was \$60m. No deduction is available in the subsidiary's tax jurisdiction for the cost of the goodwill.

Immediately after acquisition on 30 November 20X1, DT had supplied the subsidiary with inventories amounting to \$30m at a profit of 20% on selling price. The inventories had not

been sold by the year end and the tax rate applied to the subsidiary's profit is 25%. There was no significant difference between the fair values and carrying values on the acquisition of the subsidiary.

- (ii) The carrying amount of the property, plant and equipment (excluding that of the subsidiary) is \$2,600m and their tax base is \$1,920m. Tax arising on the revaluation of properties of \$140m, if disposed of at their revalued amounts, is the same at 30 November 20X1 as at the beginning of the year. The revaluation of the properties is included in the carrying amount above.

Other taxable temporary differences (excluding the subsidiary) amount to \$90m as at 30 November 20X1.

- (iii) The liability for health care benefits in the statement of financial position had risen to \$100m as at 30 November 20X1 and the tax base is zero. Health care benefits are deductible for tax purposes when payments are made to retirees. No payments were made during the year to 30 November 20X1.
- (iv) DT Group incurred \$300m of tax losses in 20X0. Under the tax law of the country, tax losses can be carried forward for three years only. The taxable profits for the years ending 30 November were anticipated to be as follows:

| 20X1 | 20X2 | 20X3 |
|------|------|------|
| \$m  | \$m  | \$m  |
| 110  | 100  | 130  |

The auditors are unsure about the availability of taxable profits in 20X3 as the amount is based upon the projected acquisition of a profitable company. It is anticipated that there will be no future reversals of existing taxable temporary differences until after 30 November 20X3.

- (v) Income tax of \$165m on a property disposed of in 20X0 becomes payable on 30 November 20X4 under the deferral relief provisions of the tax laws of the country. There had been no sales or revaluations of property during the year to 30 November 20X1.
- (vi) Income tax is assumed to be 30% for the foreseeable future in DT's jurisdiction and the company wishes to discount any deferred tax liabilities at a rate of 4% if allowed by IAS 12.
- (vii) There are no other temporary differences other than those set out above. The directors of DT have calculated the opening balance of deferred tax using IAS 12 to be \$280m.

#### *Required*

Calculate the liability for deferred tax required by the DT Group at 30 November 20X1 and the deferred tax expense in profit or loss for the year ending 30 November 20X1 using IAS 12, commenting on the effect that the application of IAS 12 will have on the financial statements of the DT Group.

**(13 marks)**

## **9 PQR (10 marks)**

**18 mins**

PQR has the following financial instruments in its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 20X5:

- (a) An investment in the debentures of STU, nominal value \$40,000, purchased on their issue on 1 January 20X5 at a discount of \$6,000 and carrying a 4% coupon. PQR plans to hold these until their redemption on 31 December 20X8. The internal rate of return of the debentures is 8.6%.
- (b) A foreign currency forward contract purchased to hedge the commitment to purchase a machine in foreign currency six months after the year end.
- (c) 100,000 redeemable preference shares issued in 20X0 at \$1 per share with an annual dividend payment of 6 cents per share, redeemable in 20X8 at their nominal value.



### Required

Advise the directors (insofar as the information permits) about the accounting for the financial instruments stating the effect of each on the gearing of the company. Your answer should be accompanied by calculations where appropriate.

## 10 Hedging

A company owns 100,000 barrels of crude oil which were purchased on 1 July 20X2 at a cost of \$26.00 per barrel.

In order to hedge the fluctuation in the market value of the oil the company signs a futures contract on the same date to deliver 100,000 barrels of oil on 31 March 20X3 at a futures price of \$27.50 per barrel.

Due to unexpected increased production by OPEC, the market price of oil on 31 December 20X2 slumped to \$22.50 per barrel and the futures price for delivery on 31 March 20X3 was \$23.25 per barrel at that date.

### Required

Explain the impact of the transactions on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 20X2.

## 11 Sirius (June 2008 Q3 – 25 marks)

45 mins

Sirius is a large national public limited company (plc). The directors' service agreements require each director to purchase 'B' ordinary shares on becoming a director and this capital is returned to the director on leaving the company. Any decision to pay a dividend on the 'B' shares must be approved in a general meeting by a majority of all of the shareholders in the company. Directors are the only holders of 'B' shares.

Sirius would like advice on how to account under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) for the following events in its financial statements for the year ended 30 April 20X8.

- (a) The capital subscribed to Sirius by the directors and shareholders is shown as follows in the statement of financial position as at 30 April 20X8:

| Equity              | \$m        |
|---------------------|------------|
| Ordinary 'A' shares | 100        |
| Ordinary 'B' shares | 20         |
| Retained earnings   | 30         |
| Total equity        | <u>150</u> |

On 30 April 20X8 the directors had recommended that \$3 million of the profits should be paid to the holders of the ordinary 'B' shares, in addition to the \$10 million paid to directors under their employment contracts. The payment of \$3 million had not been approved in a general meeting. The directors would like advice as to whether the capital subscribed by the directors (the ordinary 'B' shares) is equity or a liability and how to treat the payments out of profits to them. **(6 marks)**

- (b) When a director retires, amounts become payable to the director as a form of retirement benefit as an annuity. These amounts are not based on salaries paid to the director under an employment contract. Sirius has contractual or constructive obligations to make payments to former directors as at 30 April 20X8 as follows.
- (i) Certain former directors are paid a fixed annual amount for a fixed term beginning on the first anniversary of the director's retirement. If the director dies, an amount representing the present value of the future payment is paid to the director's estate.
- (ii) In the case of other former directors, they are paid a fixed annual amount which ceases on death.

The rights to the annuities are determined by the length of service of the former directors and are set out in the former directors' service contracts. **(6 marks)**

- (c) On 1 May 20X7 Sirus acquired another company, Marne plc. The directors of Marne, who were the only shareholders, were offered an increased profit share in the enlarged business for a period of two years after the date of acquisition as an incentive to accept the purchase offer. After this period, normal remuneration levels will be resumed. Sirus estimated that this would cost them \$5 million at 30 April 20X8, and a further \$6 million at 30 April 20X9. These amounts will be paid in cash shortly after the respective year ends. **(5 marks)**
- (d) Sirus raised a loan with a bank of \$2 million on 1 May 20X7. The market interest rate of 8% per annum is to be paid annually in arrears and the principal is to be repaid in 10 years time. The terms of the loan allow Sirus to redeem the loan after seven years by paying the interest to be charged over the seven year period, plus a penalty of \$200,000 and the principal of \$2 million. The effective interest rate of the repayment option is 9.1%. The directors of Sirus are currently restructuring the funding of the company and are in initial discussions with the bank about the possibility of repaying the loan within the next financial year. Sirus is uncertain about the accounting treatment for the current loan agreement and whether the loan can be shown as a current liability because of the discussions with the bank. **(6 marks)**
- Appropriateness of the format and presentation of the report and quality of discussion **(2 marks)**

*Required*

Draft a report to the directors of Sirus which discusses the principles and nature of the accounting treatment of the above elements under International Financial Reporting Standards in the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 20X8.

## 12 Vident (June 2005 Q2 – 25 marks)

**45 mins**

The directors of Vident, a public limited company, are reviewing the impact of IFRS 2 *Share-based payment* on the financial statements for the year ended 31 May 20X5 as they will adopt the IFRS. However, the directors of Vident are unhappy about having to apply the standard and have put forward the following arguments as to why they should not recognise an expense for share-based payments.

- They feel that share options have no cost to their company and, therefore, there should be no expense charged in profit and loss.
- They do not feel that the expense arising from share options under IFRS 2 actually meets the definition of an expense under the *Conceptual Framework* document.
- The directors are worried about the dual impact of the IFRS on earnings per share, as an expense is shown in the income statement and the impact of share options is recognised in the diluted earnings per share calculation.
- They feel that accounting for share-based payment may have an adverse effect on their company and may discourage it from introducing new share option plans.

The following share option schemes were in existence at 31 May 20X5:

| Director's name | Grant date  | Options granted | Fair value of options |                | Performance conditions | Vesting date | Exercise date |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
|                 |             |                 | at grant date         | Exercise price |                        |              |               |
| J. Van Heflin   | 1 June 20X3 | 20,000          | \$ 5                  | \$ 4.50        | A                      | 6/20X5       | 6/20X6        |
| R. Ashworth     | 1 June 20X4 | 50,000          | 6                     | 6              | B                      | 6/20X7       | 6/20X8        |

The price of the company's shares at 31 May 20X5 is \$12 per share and at 31 May 20X4 was \$12.50 per share.

The performance conditions which apply to the exercise of executive share options are as follows:

### Performance Condition A

The share options do not vest if the growth in the company's earnings per share (EPS) for the year is less than 4%.

The rate of growth of EPS was 4.5% (20X3), 4.1% (20X4), 4.2% (20X5). The directors must still work for the company on the vesting date.

### Performance Condition B

The share options do not vest until the share price has increased from its value of \$12.50 at the grant date (1 June 20X4) to above \$13.50. The director must still work for the company on the vesting date.

No directors have left the company since the issue of the share options and none are expected to leave before June 20X7. The shares vest and can be exercised on the first day of the due month.

The directors are uncertain about the deferred tax implications of adopting IFRS 2. Vident operates in a country where a tax allowance will not arise until the options are exercised and the tax allowance will be based on the option's intrinsic value at the exercise date.

Assume a tax rate of 30%.

#### Required

Draft a report to the directors of Vident setting out:

- (a) The reasons why share-based payments should be recognised in financial statements and why the directors' arguments are unacceptable (9 marks)
- (b) A discussion (with suitable calculations) as to how the directors' share options would be accounted for in the financial statements for the year ended 31 May 20X5 including the adjustment to opening balances (9 marks)
- (c) The deferred tax implications (with suitable calculations) for the company which arise from the recognition of a remuneration expense for the directors' share options (7 marks)

## 13 Clean (25 marks)

45 mins

Clean prepares its financial statements in accordance with International Accounting Standards. On 25 June 20X0, Clean made a public announcement of a decision to reduce the level of emissions of harmful chemicals from its factories. The average useful lives of the factories on 30 June 20X0 (the accounting reference date) was 20 years. The depreciation of the factories is computed on a straight-line basis and charged to cost of sales. The directors formulated the proposals for emission reduction following agreement in principle earlier in the year.

The directors prepared detailed estimates of the costs of their proposals and these showed that the following expenditure would be required.

- \$30 million on 30 June 20X1
- \$30 million on 30 June 20X2
- \$40 million on 30 June 20X3

All estimates were for the actual anticipated cash payments. No contracts were entered into until after 1 July 20X0. The estimate proved accurate as far as the expenditure due on 30 June 20X1 was concerned. When the directors decided to proceed with this project, they used discounted cash flow techniques to appraise the proposed investment. The annual discount rate they used was 8%. The entity has a reputation of fulfilling its financial commitments after it has publicly announced them. Clean included a provision for the expected costs of its proposal in its financial statements for the year ended 30 June 20X0.

#### Required

- (a) Explain why there was a need for an accounting standard dealing with provisions, and summarise the criteria that need to be satisfied before a provision is recognised. (10 marks)



- (b) Explain the decision of the directors of Clean to recognise the provision in the statement of financial position at 30 June 20X0. (5 marks)
- (c) Compute the appropriate provision in the statements of financial position in respect of the proposed expenditure at 30 June 20X0 AND 30 June 20X1. (4 marks)
- (d) Compute the two components of the charge to profit or loss in respect of the proposal for the year ended 30 June 20X1. You should explain how each component arises and identify where in the statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income each component is reported. (6 marks)

## 14 Ace

On 1 April 20X1, Ace Co owned 75% of the equity share capital of Deuce Co and 80% of the equity share capital of Trey Co. On 1 April 20X2, Ace Co purchased the remaining 25% of the equity shares of Deuce Co. In the two years ended 31 March 20X3, the following transactions occurred between the three companies:

- (a) On 30 June 20X1 Ace Co manufactured a machine for use by Deuce Co. The cost of manufacture was \$20,000. The machine was delivered to Deuce Co for an invoiced price of \$25,000. Deuce Co paid the invoice on 31 August 20X1. Deuce Co depreciated the machine over its anticipated useful life of five years, charging a full year's depreciation in the year of purchase.
- (b) On 30 September 20X2, Deuce Co sold some goods to Trey Co at an invoiced price of \$15,000. Trey Co paid the invoice on 30 November 20X2. The goods had cost Deuce Co \$12,000 to manufacture. By 31 March 20X3, Trey Co had sold all the goods outside the group.
- (c) For each of the two years ended 31 March 20X3, Ace Co provided management services to Deuce Co and Trey Co. Ace Co did not charge for these services in the year ended 31 March 20X2 but in the year ended 31 March 20X3 decided to impose a charge of \$10,000 per annum to Trey Co. The amount of \$10,000 is due to be paid by Trey Co on 31 May 20X3.

*Required*

Summarise the related party disclosures which will be required in respect of transactions (a) to (c) above for both of the years ended 31 March 20X2 and 31 March 20X3 in the financial statements of Ace Co, Deuce Co and Trey Co.

**Note.** You may assume that Ace Co presents consolidated financial statements for both of the years dealt with in the question.

## 15 Able (25 marks)

**45 mins**

- (a) The development of conceptual frameworks for financial reporting by accounting standard setters could fundamentally change the way in which financial contracts such as leases are accounted for. These frameworks identify the basic elements of financial statements as assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses and set down their recognition rules. In analysing the definitions of assets and liabilities one could conclude that most leases, including non-cancellable operating leases, qualify for recognition as assets and liabilities because the lessee is likely to enjoy the future economic benefits embodied in the leased asset and will have an unavoidable obligation that will result in an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits to the lessor. Because of the problems of accounting for leases, there have been calls for the capitalisation of all non-cancellable operating leases so that the only problem would be the definition of the term 'non-cancellable.'

*Required*

- (i) Explain how leases are accounted for in the books of the lessee under IAS 17 *Leases*. (7 marks)
- (ii) Discuss the current problems relating to the recognition and classification of leases in corporate financial statements. (Candidates should give examples where necessary.) (8 marks)

- (b) (i) During the financial year to 31 May 20X8, Able a public limited liability company disposed of electrical distribution systems from its electrical power plants to Cain a public limited liability company for a consideration of \$198m. At the same time Able entered into a long-term distribution agreement with Cain whereby the assets were leased back under a 10-year operating lease. The fair value of the assets sold was \$98m and the carrying value based on depreciated historic cost of the assets was \$33m. The lease rentals were \$24m per annum which represented twice the normal payment for leasing this type of asset. **(5 marks)**
- (ii) Additionally on 1 June 20X7, Able sold plant with a book value of \$100m to Esau a public limited liability company when there was a balance on the revaluation reserve of \$30m which related to the plant. The fair value and selling price of the plant at that date was \$152m. The plant was immediately leased back over a lease term of four years which is the asset's remaining useful life. The residual value at the end of the lease period is estimated to be a negligible amount. Able can purchase the plant at the end of the lease for a nominal sum of \$1. The lease is non-cancellable and requires equal rental payments of \$43.5m at the commencement of each financial year. Able has to pay all of the costs of maintaining and insuring the plant.
- The implicit interest rate in the lease is 10% per annum. The plant is depreciated on a straight-line basis. (The present value of an ordinary annuity of \$1 per period for three years at 10% interest is \$2.49.) **(5 marks)**

*Required*

Show and explain how the above transactions should be dealt with in the financial statements of Able for the year ending 31 May 20X8 in accordance with IAS 17 *Leases* and the *Conceptual Framework*.

## 16 Highland (18 marks)

**32 mins**

Highland owns two subsidiaries acquired as follows:

- 1 July 20X1 80% of Aviemore for \$5 million when the book value of the net assets of Aviemore was \$4 million.
- 30 November 20X7 65% of Buchan for \$2.6 million when the book value of the net assets of Buchan was \$3.35 million.

The companies' statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 March 20X8 were:

|  | Highland | Aviemore | Buchan  |
|--|----------|----------|---------|
|  | \$'000   | \$'000   | \$'000  |
| Revenue  | 5,000    | 3,000    | 2,910   |
| Cost of sales  | (3,000)  | (2,300)  | (2,820) |
| Gross profit   | 2,000    | 700      | 90      |
| Administrative expenses  | (1,000)  | (500)    | (150)   |
| Other income   | 230      | —        | —       |
| Finance costs  | —        | (50)     | (210)   |
| Profit/(loss) before tax   | 1,230    | 150      | (270)   |
| Income tax expense   | (300)    | (50)     | —       |
| PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR   | 930      | 100      | (270)   |
| Other comprehensive income that will not be reclassified to profit or loss, net of tax | 130      | 40       | 120     |
| TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR  | 1,060    | 140      | (150)   |
| Dividends paid during the year   | 200      | 50       | —       |

### Additional information

- On 1 April 20X7, Buchan issued \$2.1 million 10% loan stock to Highland. Interest is payable twice yearly on 1 October and 1 April. Highland has accounted for the interest received on 1 October 20X7 only.
- On 1 July 20X7, Aviemore sold a freehold property to Highland for \$800,000 (land element – \$300,000). The property originally cost \$900,000 (land element – \$100,000) on 1 July 20W7. The property's total useful life was 50 years on 1 July 20W7 and there has been no change in the useful life since. Aviemore has credited the profit on disposal to 'Administrative expenses'.
- The property, plant and equipment of Buchan on 30 November 20X7 was valued at \$500,000 (book value \$350,000) and was acquired in April 20X7. The property, plant and equipment has a total useful life of ten years. Buchan has not adjusted its accounting records to reflect fair values. The group accounting policy to measure non-controlling interests at the proportionate share of the fair value of net identifiable assets at acquisition.
- All companies use the straight-line method of depreciation and charge a full year's depreciation in the year of acquisition and none in the year of disposal. Depreciation on fair value adjustments is time apportioned from the date of acquisition.
- Highland charges Aviemore an annual fee of \$85,000 for management services and this has been included in 'Other income'.
- Highland has accounted for its dividend received from Aviemore in 'Other income'.
- Impairment tests conducted at the year end revealed recoverable amounts of \$7,040,000 for Aviemore and \$3,700,000 for Buchan versus book values of net assets of \$4,450,000 and \$3,300,000 in the separate financial statements of Aviemore and Buchan respectively (adjusted for the effects of group fair value adjustments). No impairment losses had previously been recognised.

### Required

Prepare the consolidated statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for Highland for the year ended 31 March 20X8.

## 17 Armoury (10 marks)

18 mins

Bayonet, a public limited company, purchased 6m shares in Rifle, a public limited company, on 1 January 20X5 for \$10m. Rifle had purchased 4m shares in Pistol, a public limited company for \$9m on 31 December 20X2 when its retained earnings stood at \$5m. The balances on retained earnings of the acquired companies were \$8m and \$6.5m respectively at 1 January 20X5. The fair value of the identifiable assets and liabilities of Rifle and Pistol was equivalent to their book values at the acquisition dates.

The statements of financial position of the three companies as at 31 December 20X9 are as follows:

|                               | <i>Bayonet</i><br>\$'000 | <i>Rifle</i><br>\$'000 | <i>Pistol</i><br>\$'000 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Non-current assets</i>     |                          |                        |                         |
| Property, plant and equipment | 14,500                   | 12,140                 | 17,500                  |
| Investment in Rifle           | 10,000                   |                        |                         |
| Investment in Pistol          | —                        | 9,000                  | —                       |
|                               | <u>24,500</u>            | <u>21,140</u>          | <u>17,500</u>           |
| <i>Current assets</i>         |                          |                        |                         |
| Inventories                   | 6,300                    | 2,100                  | 450                     |
| Trade receivables             | 4,900                    | 2,000                  | 2,320                   |
| Cash                          | 500                      | 1,440                  | 515                     |
|                               | <u>11,700</u>            | <u>5,540</u>           | <u>3,285</u>            |
|                               | <u>36,200</u>            | <u>26,680</u>          | <u>20,785</u>           |
| <i>Equity</i>                 |                          |                        |                         |
| 50c ordinary shares           | 5,000                    | 4,000                  | 2,500                   |
| Retained earnings             | 25,500                   | 20,400                 | 16,300                  |
|                               | <u>30,500</u>            | <u>24,400</u>          | <u>18,800</u>           |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>    | <u>5,700</u>             | <u>2,280</u>           | <u>1,985</u>            |
|                               | <u>36,200</u>            | <u>26,680</u>          | <u>20,785</u>           |

Group policy is to value non-controlling interests at fair value at acquisition. The fair value of the non-controlling interests in Rifle was calculated as \$3,230,000 on 1 January 20X5. The fair value of the 40% non-controlling interests in Pistol on 1 January 20X5 was \$4.6m.

Impairment tests in current and previous years did not reveal any impairment losses.

*Required*

Prepare the consolidated statement of financial position of Bayonet as at 31 December 20X9.

## 18 Murder, Mystery and Suspense (18 marks) 32 mins

On 1 January 20X3 Murder, a public limited company acquired 60% of Mystery, a public limited company.

On 30 July 20X1 Murder acquired 10% of Suspense, a public limited company, and on the same day Mystery acquired 80% of Suspense.

The statements of financial position of the three companies as at 31 December 20X7 are as follows:

|                               | <i>Murder</i><br>\$'m | <i>Mystery</i><br>\$'m | <i>Suspense</i><br>\$'m |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Non-current assets</i>     |                       |                        |                         |
| Property, plant and equipment | 2,458                 | 1,410                  | 870                     |
| Investment in Mystery         | 900                   |                        |                         |
| Investment in Suspense        | 27                    | 240                    | —                       |
|                               | <u>3,385</u>          | <u>1,650</u>           | <u>870</u>              |
| <i>Current assets</i>         |                       |                        |                         |
| Inventories                   | 450                   | 200                    | 260                     |
| Trade receivables             | 610                   | 365                    | 139                     |
| Cash                          | 240                   | 95                     | 116                     |
|                               | <u>1,300</u>          | <u>660</u>             | <u>515</u>              |
|                               | <u>4,685</u>          | <u>2,310</u>           | <u>1,385</u>            |
| <i>Equity</i>                 |                       |                        |                         |
| Ordinary share capital        | 500                   | 200                    | 100                     |
| Share premium                 | 250                   | 120                    | 50                      |
| Retained earnings             | 2,805                 | 1,572                  | 850                     |
|                               | <u>3,555</u>          | <u>1,892</u>           | <u>1,000</u>            |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>    |                       |                        |                         |
| Trade payables                | 1,130                 | 418                    | 385                     |
|                               | <u>4,685</u>          | <u>2,310</u>           | <u>1,385</u>            |

During the year, Mystery sold goods to Suspense of \$260m including a mark-up of 25%. All of these goods remain in inventories at the year end.

The retained earnings of the three companies at the acquisition dates was:

|          | <i>30.7.X1</i><br>\$'m | <i>1.1.X3</i><br>\$'m |
|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Murder   | 1,610                  | 1,860                 |
| Mystery  | 700                    | 950                   |
| Suspense | 40                     | 100                   |

The book values of the identifiable net assets at the acquisition date are equivalent to their fair values. The fair value of Murder's 10% holding in Suspense on 1 January 20X3 was \$50m.

Murder and Mystery hold their investments in subsidiaries at cost in their separate financial statements. It is group policy to value the non-controlling interests at fair value at acquisition. The directors valued the non-controlling interests in Mystery at \$536m and Suspense at \$210m on 1 January 20X3.

No impairment losses have been necessary in the consolidated financial statements to date.

*Required*

Prepare the consolidated statement of financial position of Murder group as at 31 December 20X7.

## 19 Holmes & Deakin (22 marks)

40 mins

Holmes, a public limited company, has owned 85% of the ordinary share capital of Deakin, a public limited company, for some years. The shares were bought for \$255m and Deakin's reserves at the time of purchase were \$20m.

On 28 February 20X3 Holmes sold 40m of the Deakin shares for \$160m. The only entry made in respect of this transaction has been the receipt of the cash, which was credited to the 'investment in subsidiary' account. No dividends were paid by either entity in the period.

The following draft summarised financial statements are available:

### STATEMENTS OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MAY 20X3

|  | Holmes<br>\$m | Deakin<br>\$m |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Profit before tax</i>                       | 130           | 60            |
| Income tax expense                             | (40)          | (20)          |
| <b>PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>                     | <b>90</b>     | <b>40</b>     |
| <i>Other comprehensive income, net of tax</i>  | 20            | 10            |
| <b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b> | <b>110</b>    | <b>50</b>     |

### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MAY 20X3

|                                   | \$m          | \$m        |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| <i>Non-current assets</i>         |              |            |
| Property, plant and equipment     | 535          | 178        |
| Investment in Deakin              | 95           | —          |
|                                   | <u>630</u>   | <u>178</u> |
| <i>Current assets</i>             |              |            |
| Inventories                       | 320          | 190        |
| Trade receivables                 | 250          | 175        |
| Cash                              | 80           | 89         |
|                                   | <u>650</u>   | <u>454</u> |
|                                   | <b>1,280</b> | <b>632</b> |
| <i>Equity</i>                     |              |            |
| Share capital \$1 ordinary shares | 500          | 200        |
| Reserves                          | 310          | 170        |
|                                   | <u>810</u>   | <u>370</u> |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>        |              |            |
| Trade payables                    | 295          | 171        |
| Income tax payable                | 80           | 60         |
| Provisions                        | 95           | 31         |
|                                   | <u>470</u>   | <u>262</u> |
|                                   | <b>1,280</b> | <b>632</b> |

No impairment losses have been necessary in the group financial statements to date.

Assume that the gain as calculated in the parent's separate financial statements will be subject to corporate income tax at a rate of 30% and that profit and other comprehensive income accrue evenly throughout the year.

Holmes elected to measure the non-controlling interests in Deakin at fair value at the date of acquisition. The fair value of the non-controlling interests in Deakin was \$45m at the date of acquisition. No control premium was paid on acquisition.



### Required

Prepare:

- The statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and a statement of changes in equity (total) of Holmes for the year ended 31 May 20X3 (5 marks)
- The consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income of Holmes for the same period (6 marks)
- A consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 May 20X3 (9 marks)
- A consolidated statement of changes in equity (total) for the year ended 31 May 20X3 (2 marks)

## 20 Harvard (18 marks)

32 mins

The draft financial statements of Harvard, a public limited company, and its subsidiary, Krakow sp. z o.o. are set out below.

| STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 DECEMBER 20X5   | Harvard<br>\$'000 | Krakow<br>PLN'000 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Non-current assets</i>  |                   |                   |
| Property, plant and equipment  | 2,870             | 4,860             |
| Investment in Krakow   | 840               | —                 |
|  | <u>3,710</u>      | <u>4,860</u>      |
| <i>Current assets</i>  |                   |                   |
| Inventories  | 1,990             | 8,316             |
| Trade receivables  | 1,630             | 4,572             |
| Cash   | 240               | 2,016             |
|  | <u>3,860</u>      | <u>14,904</u>     |
|  | <u>7,570</u>      | <u>19,764</u>     |
| <i>Equity</i>  |                   |                   |
| Share capital (\$1/PLN1)   | 118               | 1,348             |
| Retained reserves  | 502               | 14,060            |
|  | <u>620</u>        | <u>15,408</u>     |
| <i>Non-current liabilities</i>   |                   |                   |
| Loans  | 1,920             | —                 |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>   |                   |                   |
| Trade payables   | 5,030             | 4,356             |
|  | <u>7,570</u>      | <u>19,764</u>     |
| <br>STATEMENTS OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME<br>FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X5 |                   |                   |
| <i>Revenue</i>   | 40,425            | 97,125            |
| Cost of sales  | (35,500)          | (77,550)          |
| Gross profit   | 4,925             | 19,575            |
| Distribution and administrative expenses   | (4,400)           | (5,850)           |
| Investment income  | 720               | —                 |
| <i>Profit before tax</i>   | 1,245             | 13,725            |
| Income tax expense   | (300)             | (4,725)           |
| <i>PROFIT/TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</i>  | <u>945</u>        | <u>9,000</u>      |
| <br>Dividends paid during the period   | 700               | 3,744             |

The following additional information is given:

- Exchange rates*

|                  | Zloty (PLN) to \$ |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 31 December 20X2 | 4.40              |
| 31 December 20X3 | 4.16              |
| 31 December 20X4 | 4.00              |
| 15 May 20X5      | 3.90              |
| 31 December 20X5 | 3.60              |
| Average for 20X5 | 3.75              |

- (b) Harvard acquired 1,011,000 shares in Krakow for \$840,000 on 31 December 20X2 when Krakow's retained reserves stood at PLN 2,876,000. Krakow operates as an autonomous subsidiary. Its functional currency is the Polish zloty.

The fair value of the identifiable net assets of Krakow were equivalent to their book values at the acquisition date. Group policy is to measure non-controlling interests at fair value at the acquisition date. The fair value of the non-controlling interests in Krakow was measured at \$270,000 on 31 December 20X2.

- (c) Krakow paid an interim dividend of PLN 3,744,000 on 15 May 20X5. No other dividends were paid or declared in the period.
- (d) No impairment losses were necessary in the consolidated financial statements by 31 December 20X5.

*Required*

- (a) Prepare the consolidated statement of financial position at 31 December 20X5. **(6 marks)**
- (b) Prepare the consolidated statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and an extract from the statement of changes in equity for retained reserves for the year ended 31 December 20X5. **(12 marks)**

Ignore deferred tax on translation differences.

## 21 Porter (25 marks)

**45 mins**

The following consolidated financial statements relate to Porter, a public limited company:

PORTER GROUP: STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MAY 20X6

|   | 20X6<br>\$'m | 20X5<br>\$'m |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Non-current assets</i>                             |              |              |
| Property, plant and equipment                         | 958          | 812          |
| Goodwill  | 15           | 10           |
| Investment in associate                               | 48           | 39           |
|   | <u>1,021</u> | <u>861</u>   |
| <i>Current assets</i>                                 |              |              |
| Inventories   | 154          | 168          |
| Trade receivables                                     | 132          | 112          |
| Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | 16           | 0            |
| Cash and cash equivalents                             | 158          | 48           |
|   | <u>460</u>   | <u>328</u>   |
|   | <u>1,481</u> | <u>1,189</u> |
| <i>Equity attributable to owners of the parent</i>    |              |              |
| Share capital (\$1 ordinary shares)                   | 332          | 300          |
| Share premium account                                 | 212          | 172          |
| Retained earnings                                     | 188          | 165          |
| Revaluation surplus                                   | 101          | 54           |
|   | <u>833</u>   | <u>691</u>   |
| <i>Non-controlling interests</i>                      | 84           | 28           |
|   | <u>917</u>   | <u>719</u>   |
| <i>Non-current liabilities</i>                        |              |              |
| Long-term borrowings                                  | 380          | 320          |
| Deferred tax liability                                | 38           | 26           |
|   | <u>418</u>   | <u>346</u>   |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>                            |              |              |
| Trade and other payables                              | 110          | 98           |
| Interest payable                                      | 8            | 4            |
| Current tax payable                                   | 28           | 22           |
|   | <u>146</u>   | <u>124</u>   |
|   | <u>1,481</u> | <u>1,189</u> |

PORTER GROUP: STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 20X6

|   | \$'m       |
|---|------------|
| <i>Revenue</i>  | 956        |
| Cost of sales   | (634)      |
| Gross profit  | 322        |
| Other income  | 6          |
| Distribution costs  | (97)       |
| Administrative expenses                                       | (115)      |
| Finance costs   | (16)       |
| Share of profit of associate                                  | 12         |
| <i>Profit before tax</i>                                      | 112        |
| Income tax expense  | (34)       |
| <b>PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>                                    | <b>78</b>  |
| <i>Other comprehensive income:</i>                            |            |
| <i>Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:</i> |            |
| Gains on property revaluation                                 | 58         |
| Share of gain on property revaluation of associate            | 8          |
| Income tax relating to items that will not be reclassified    | (17)       |
| <i>Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax</i>    | <i>49</i>  |
| <b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>                | <b>127</b> |
| <br>Profit attributable to:                                   |            |
| Owners of the parent  | 68         |
| Non-controlling interests                                     | 10         |
|   | <b>78</b>  |
| <br>Total comprehensive income attributable to:               |            |
| Owners of the parent  | 115        |
| Non-controlling interests                                     | 12         |
|   | <b>127</b> |

The following information relates to the consolidated financial statements of Porter:

- During the period, Porter acquired 60% of a subsidiary. The purchase was effected by issuing shares of Porter on a 1 for 2 basis, at their market value on that date of \$2.25 per share, plus \$26m in cash.

A statement of financial position of the subsidiary, prepared at the acquisition date for consolidation purposes showed the following position:

|                                | \$'m       |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Property, plant and equipment  | 92         |
| Inventories                    | 20         |
| Trade receivables              | 16         |
| Cash and cash equivalents      | 8          |
|                                | <b>136</b> |
| <br>Share capital (\$1 shares) | 80         |
| Reserves                       | 40         |
|                                | <b>120</b> |
| Trade payables                 | 12         |
| Income taxes payable           | 4          |
|                                | <b>136</b> |

An impairment test conducted at the year end, resulted in a write-down of goodwill relating to another wholly owned subsidiary. This was charged to cost of sales.

Group policy is to value non-controlling interests at the date of acquisition at the proportionate share of the fair value of the acquiree's identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed.

- 2 Depreciation charged to the consolidated profit or loss amounted to \$44m. There were no disposals of property, plant and equipment during the year.
- 3 Other income represents gains on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss. The financial assets are investments in quoted shares. They were purchased shortly before the year end with surplus cash, and were designated at fair through profit loss as they are expected to be sold after the year end. No dividends have yet been received.
- 4 Included in 'trade and other payables' is the \$ equivalent of an invoice for 102m shillings for some equipment purchased from a foreign supplier. The asset was invoiced on 5 March 20X6, but had not been paid for at the year end, 31 May 20X6.

Exchange gains or losses on the transaction have been included in administrative expenses. Relevant exchange rates were as follows:

|              | Shillings to \$1 |
|--------------|------------------|
| 5 March 20X6 | 6.8              |
| 31 May 20X6  | 6.0              |

- 5 Movement on retained earnings was as follows:

|                            | \$'m       |
|----------------------------|------------|
| At 31 May 20X5             | 165        |
| Total comprehensive income | 68         |
| Dividends paid             | (45)       |
| At 31 May 20X6             | <u>188</u> |

### Required

Prepare a consolidated statement of cash flows for Porter for the year ended 31 May 20X6 in accordance with IAS 7 *Statements of cash flows*, using the indirect method.

Notes to the statement of cash flows are not required.

## 22 Grow by acquisition

Expand is a large group that seeks to grow by acquisition. The directors of Expand have identified two potential target entities (A and B) and obtained copies of their financial statements. Extracts from these financial statements, together with notes providing additional information, are given below.

### STATEMENTS OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X1

|  | A            | B            |
|--|--------------|--------------|
|  | \$'000       | \$'000       |
| Revenue  | 68,000       | 66,000       |
| Cost of sales  | (42,000)     | (45,950)     |
| Gross profit   | 26,000       | 20,050       |
| Other operating expenses   | (18,000)     | (14,000)     |
| Profit from operations   | 8,000        | 6,050        |
| Finance cost   | (3,000)      | (4,000)      |
| Profit before tax  | 5,000        | 2,050        |
| Income tax expense   | (1,500)      | (1,000)      |
| Profit for the year  | 3,500        | 1,050        |
| Other comprehensive income (items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss) | NIL          | 6,000        |
| Surplus on revaluation of properties   |              |              |
| Total comprehensive income   | <u>3,500</u> | <u>7,050</u> |

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X1

|   | A             | B             |
|---|---------------|---------------|
|   | \$'000        | \$'000        |
| Balance at 1 January 20X1               | 22,000        | 16,000        |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | 3,500         | 7,050         |
| Dividends paid                          | (2,000)       | (1,000)       |
| Balance at 31 December 20X1             | <u>23,500</u> | <u>22,050</u> |

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 DECEMBER 20X1

|                                | A             |               | B             |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                | \$'000        | \$'000        | \$'000        | \$'000        |
| <i>Non-current assets</i>      |               |               |               |               |
| Property, plant and equipment  | <u>32,000</u> |               | <u>35,050</u> |               |
|                                |               | 32,000        |               | 35,050        |
| <i>Current assets</i>          |               |               |               |               |
| Inventories                    | 6,000         |               | 7,000         |               |
| Trade receivables              | <u>12,000</u> |               | <u>10,000</u> |               |
|                                |               | 18,000        |               | 17,000        |
|                                |               | <u>50,000</u> |               | <u>52,050</u> |
| <i>Equity</i>                  |               |               |               |               |
| Issued capital (\$1 shares)    |               | 16,000        |               | 12,000        |
| Revaluation reserve            |               | Nil           |               | 5,000         |
| Retained earnings              |               | <u>7,500</u>  |               | <u>5,050</u>  |
|                                |               | 23,500        |               | 22,050        |
| <i>Non-current liabilities</i> |               |               |               |               |
| Interest bearing borrowings    |               | 16,000        |               | 18,000        |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>     |               |               |               |               |
| Trade payables                 | 5,000         |               | 5,000         |               |
| Income tax                     | 1,500         |               | 1,000         |               |
| Short-term borrowings          | <u>4,000</u>  |               | <u>6,000</u>  |               |
|                                |               | 10,500        |               | 12,000        |
|                                |               | <u>50,000</u> |               | <u>52,050</u> |

Notes

1 *Sale by A to X*

On 31 December 20X1, A supplied goods, at the normal selling price of \$2.4 million, to another entity, X. A's normal selling price is at a mark up of 60% on cost. X paid for the goods in cash on the same day. The terms of the selling agreement were that A repurchase these goods on 30 June 20X2 for \$2.5 million. A has accounted for the transaction as a sale.

2 *Revaluation of non-current assets by B*

B revalued its non-current assets for the first time on 1 January 20X1. The non-current assets of A are very similar in age and type to the non-current assets of B. However, A has a policy of maintaining all its non-current assets at depreciated historical cost. Both entities charge depreciation of non-current assets to cost of sales. B has transferred the excess depreciation on the revalued assets from the revaluation reserve to retained earnings as permitted in IAS 16 – *Property, plant and equipment*.

Expand uses ratio analysis to appraise potential investment opportunities. It is normal practice to base the appraisal on four key ratios.

- Return on capital employed
- Gross profit margin
- Turnover of capital employed
- Leverage

For the purposes of the ratio analysis, Expand computes:

- Capital employed as capital and reserves plus borrowings
- Borrowings as interest-bearing borrowings plus short-term borrowings

Your assistant has computed the four key ratios for the two entities from the financial statements provided and the results are summarised below.

| Ratio                        | A     | B     |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Return on capital employed   | 18.4% | 13.1% |
| Gross profit margin          | 38.2% | 30.4% |
| Turnover of capital employed | 1.6   | 1.4   |
| Leverage                     | 46.0% | 52.1% |

Your assistant has informed you that, on the basis of the ratios calculated, the performance of A is superior to that of B in all respects. Therefore, Expand should carry out a more detailed review of A with a view to making a bid to acquire it. However, you are unsure whether this is necessarily the correct conclusion given the information provided in Notes 1 and 2.

#### Required

- Explain and compute the adjustments that would be appropriate in respect of Notes 1 and 2 so as to make the financial statements of A and B comparable for analysis.
- Recalculate the four key ratios mentioned in the question for both A and B after making the adjustments you have recommended in your answer to part (a). You should provide appropriate workings to support your calculations.
- In the light of the work that you have carried out in answer to parts (a) and (b), evaluate your assistant's conclusion that a more detailed review of A should be carried out, with a view to making a bid to acquire it.

## 23 German competitor (25 marks)

**45 mins**

You are the chief accountant of Tone plc, a UK company. The managing director has provided you with the financial statements of Tone plc's main competitor, Hilde GmbH, a German company. He finds difficulty in reviewing these statements in their non-UK format, presented below.

HILDE GmbH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 20X5 (in € million)

|                                | 31.3.X5      | 31.3.X4      |                                | 31.3.X5      | 31.3.X4      |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                  |              |              | <b>CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES</b> |              |              |
| Tangible non-current assets    |              |              | Capital and reserves           |              |              |
| Land                           | 1,000        | 750          | Share capital                  | 850          | 750          |
| Buildings                      | 750          | 500          | Share premium                  | 100          | —            |
| Plant                          | 200          | 150          | Legal reserve                  | 200          | 200          |
|                                | <u>1,950</u> | <u>1,400</u> | Profit & loss b/fwd            | 590          | 300          |
|                                |              |              | Profit & loss for year         | 185          | 290          |
| Current assets                 |              |              | <b>NET WORTH</b>               | <u>1,925</u> | <u>1,540</u> |
| Inventory                      | 150          | 120          |                                |              |              |
| Trade receivables              | 180          | 100          | Payables                       |              |              |
| Cash                           | 20           | 200          | Trade payables                 | 170          | 150          |
|                                | <u>350</u>   | <u>420</u>   | Taxation                       | 180          | 150          |
|                                |              |              | Other payables                 | 75           | 50           |
| Prepayments and accrued income |              |              |                                | <u>425</u>   | <u>350</u>   |
| Prepayments                    | 50           | 70           |                                |              |              |
|                                | <u>2,350</u> | <u>1,890</u> |                                | <u>2,350</u> | <u>1,890</u> |

HILDE GmbH  
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 20X5 (in € million)

|   | 20X5         | 20X4         |  | 20X5         | 20X4         |
|---|--------------|--------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| EXPENSES  |              |              | INCOME   |              |              |
| Operating expenses:   |              |              | Operating income:                                |              |              |
| Purchase of raw materials                                   | 740          | 400          | Sale of goods produced                           | 1,890        | 1,270        |
| Variation in inventories thereof                            | 90           | 40           | Variation in inventory of finished goods and WIP | 120          | 80           |
| Taxation  | 190          | 125          | Other operating income                           | 75           | 50           |
| Wages   | 500          | 285          | Total operating income                           | <u>2,085</u> | <u>1,400</u> |
| Valuation adjustment on non-current assets: depreciation    | 200          | 150          |  |              |              |
| Valuation adjustment on current assets: amounts written off | 30           | 20           |  |              |              |
| Other operating expenses                                    | 50           | 40           |  |              |              |
| Total operating expenses                                    | <u>1,800</u> | <u>1,060</u> |  |              |              |
| Financial expenses  |              |              |  |              |              |
| Interest  | 100          | 50           |  |              |              |
| Total financial expenses                                    | <u>100</u>   | <u>50</u>    |  |              |              |
| TOTAL EXPENSES  | 1,900        | 1,110        | TOTAL INCOME                                     | 2,085        | 1,400        |
| Balance: PROFIT   | 185          | 290          |  |              |              |
| SUM TOTAL   | <u>2,085</u> | <u>1,400</u> |  | <u>2,085</u> | <u>1,400</u> |

*Required*

Prepare a report for the managing director:

- Analysing the performance of Hilde GmbH using the financial statements provided. **(18 marks)**
- Explaining why a direct comparison of the results of Tone plc and Hilde GmbH may be misleading. **(7 marks)**

## 24 Burley (December 2009 Q3)

**(45 mins)**

Burley, a public limited company, operates in the energy industry. It has entered into several arrangements with other entities as follows.

- Burley and Slite, a public limited company, jointly control an oilfield. Burley has a 60% interest and Slite a 40% interest and the companies are entitled to extract oil in these proportions. An agreement was signed on 1 December 20X8, which allowed for the net cash settlement of any over/under extraction by one company. The net cash settlement would be at the market price of oil at the date of settlement. Both parties have used this method of settlement before. 200,000 barrels of oil were produced up to 1 October 20X9 but none were produced after this up to 30 November 20X9 due to production difficulties. The oil was all sold to third parties at \$100 per barrel. Burley has extracted 10,000 barrels more than the company's quota and Slite has under extracted by the same amount. The market price of oil at the year end of 30 November 20X9 was \$105 per barrel. The excess oil extracted by Burley was settled on 12 December 20X9 under the terms of the agreement at \$95 per barrel.

Burley had purchased oil from another supplier because of the production difficulties at \$98 per barrel and has oil inventory of 5,000 barrels at the year end, purchased from this source. Slite had

no inventory of oil. Neither company had oil inventory at 1 December 20X8. Selling costs are \$2 per barrel.

Burley wishes to know how to account for the recognition of revenue, the excess oil extracted and the oil inventory at the year end. (9 marks)

- (b) Burley also entered into an agreement with Jorge, a public limited company, on 1 December 20X8. Each of the companies holds one half of the equity in an entity, Wells, a public limited company, which operates offshore oil rigs. The contractual arrangement between Burley and Jorge establishes joint control of the activities that are conducted in Wells. The main feature of Wells's legal form is that Wells, not Burley or Jorge, has rights to the assets, and obligations for the liabilities, relating to the arrangement.

The terms of the contractual arrangement are such that:

- (i) Wells owns the oil rigs. The contractual arrangement does not specify that Burley and Jorge have rights to the oil rigs.
- (ii) Burley and Jorge are not liable in respect of the debts, liabilities or obligations of Wells. If Wells is unable to pay any of its debts or other liabilities or to discharge its obligations to third parties, the liability of each party to any third party will be limited to the unpaid amount of that party's capital contribution.
- (iii) Burley and Jorge have the right to sell or pledge their interests in Wells
- (iv) Each party receives a share of the income from operating the oil rig in accordance with its interest in Wells.

Burley wants to account for the interest in Wells by using the equity method, and wishes for advice on the matter.

The oilrigs of Wells started operating on 1 December 20W8, ie ten years before the agreement was signed, and are measured under the cost model. The useful life of the rigs is 40 years. The initial cost of the rigs was \$240 million, which included decommissioning costs (discounted) of \$20 million. At 1 December 20X8, the carrying amount of the decommissioning liability has grown to \$32.6 million, but the net present value of decommissioning liability has decreased to \$18.5 million as a result of the increase in the risk-adjusted discount rate from 5% to 7%. Burley is unsure how to account for the oilrigs in the financial statements of Wells for the year ended 30 November 20X9.

Burley owns a 10% interest in a pipeline, which is used to transport the oil from the offshore oilrig to a refinery on the land. Burley has joint control over the pipeline and has to pay its share of the maintenance costs. Burley has the right to use 10% of the capacity of the pipeline. Burley wishes to show the pipeline as an investment in its financial statements to 30 November 20X9. (10 marks)

- (c) Burley has purchased a transferable interest in an oil exploration licence. Initial surveys of the region designated for exploration indicate that there are substantial oil deposits present, but further surveys will be required in order to establish the nature and extent of the deposits. Burley also has to determine whether the extraction of the oil is commercially viable. Past experience has shown that the licence can increase substantially in value if further information becomes available as to the viability of the extraction of the oil. Burley wishes to capitalise the cost of the licence but is unsure as to whether the accounting policy is compliant with International Financial Reporting Standards. (4 marks)

*Required*

Discuss with suitable computations where necessary, how the above arrangements and events would be accounted for in the financial statements of Burley.

Professional marks will be awarded in this question for clarity and expression. (2 marks)



## 25 Public sector organisations

The laws, regulations and guidelines relating to public sector accounts are rather different from those which apply to private sector organisations. As far as public sector organisations are concerned:

- (a) State why these differences exist
- (b) Explain the main differences
- (c) Outline the consequences for public sector accounts
- (d) State how the business aims and objectives would differ between:
  - (i) A stock market quoted clothes retailer
  - (ii) A state-funded hospital run as a not-for-profit organisation
- (e) Biltshire Health Authority is considering adopting IFRS in place of cash accounting. Briefly explain the potential effect of the change in respect of:
  - (i) Provisions
  - (ii) Leases

## 26 Small and medium-sized entities (25 marks) 45 mins

In July 2009, the IASB issued its *IFRS for SMEs*. The aim of the standard is to provide a simplified, self-contained set of accounting principles for companies which are not publicly accountable. The IFRS reduces the volume of accounting guidance applicable to SMEs by more than 90% when compared to a full set of IFRSs.

*Required*

- (a) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of SMEs following a separate *IFRS for SMEs* as opposed to full IFRSs. (10 marks)

The *IFRS for SMEs* removes choices of accounting treatment, eliminates topics that are not generally relevant to SMEs, simplifies methods for recognition and measurement and reduces the disclosure requirements of full IFRSs.

*Required*

- (b) Give some examples from full IFRSs with choice or complex recognition and measurement requirements. Explain how the *IFRS for SME* removes this choice or simplifies the recognition and measurement requirements. (13 marks)
- Appropriateness and quality of discussion (2 marks)

## 27 Peter Holdings

Peter Holdings is a large investment conglomerate.

*Required*

Explain how divisional performance should be measured in the interest of the group's shareholders.

## 28 Planet (25 marks) 45 mins

Planet has provided the following draft consolidated statement of financial position as at 30 November 20X2.

PLANET

GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 20X2

|  | \$'000         |
|--|----------------|
| <i>Non-current assets</i>                    |                |
| Property, plant and equipment                | 76,240         |
| Intangible assets                            | 10,360         |
|  | <u>86,600</u>  |
| <i>Net current assets</i>                    | <u>55,800</u>  |
| <i>Total assets less current liabilities</i> | <u>142,400</u> |
| <i>Equity</i>                                |                |
| Share capital                                | 32,200         |
| Share premium account                        | 10,000         |
| Retained earnings                            | 54,800         |
|  | <u>97,000</u>  |
| Non-controlling interest                     | 18,200         |
| <i>Non-current liabilities</i>               |                |
| Long-term borrowings                         | 25,400         |
| Provisions                                   | 1,800          |
|  | <u>142,400</u> |

The group accountant has asked your advice on several matters. These issues are set out below and have not been dealt with in the draft group financial statements.

- (i) Planet purchased a wholly owned subsidiary company, Moon, on 1 December 20X0. The purchase consideration was based on the performance of the subsidiary. The vendors commenced a legal action on 31 March 20X2 over the amount of the purchase consideration. An amount had been paid to the vendors and included in the calculation of goodwill but the vendors disputed the amount of this payment. On 30 November 20X2 the court ruled that Planet should pay an additional \$16 million to the vendors. The directors do not know how to treat the additional purchase consideration and have not accounted for the item.

**Note.** Ignore the effect of the time value of money.

- (ii) Planet has corporate offices under an operating lease. A requirement of the operating lease for the buildings is that the asset is returned in good condition. The operating lease was signed in the current year and lasts for six years. Planet intends to refurbish the building in six years' time at a cost of \$12 million in order to meet the requirements of the lease. This amount includes the renovation of the exterior of the building and is based on current price levels. Currently there is evidence that due to exceptionally severe weather damage the company will have to spend \$2.4 million in the next year on having the exterior of the building renovated. The company feels that this expenditure will reduce the refurbishment cost at the end of the lease by an equivalent amount. There is no provision for the above expenditure in the financial statements.

An 80% owned subsidiary company, Galaxy, has a leasehold property (depreciated historical cost \$16 million). It has been modified to include a swimming pool for the employees. Under the terms of the lease, the property must be restored to its original state when the lease expires in ten years' time or earlier termination. The present value of the costs of reinstatement are likely to be \$4 million and the directors wish to provide for \$400,000 per annum for ten years. The lease was signed and operated from 1 December 20X1. The directors estimate that the lease has a recoverable value of \$19 million at 30 November 20X2 and have not provided for any of the above amounts.

Additionally, Planet owns buildings at a carrying value of \$40 million which will require repair expenditure of approximately \$12 million over the next five years. There is no provision for this amount in the financial statements. Depreciation is charged on owned buildings at 5% per annum and on leasehold buildings at 10% per annum on the straight line basis.

- (iii) On 1 December 20X1, Planet entered into an agreement with a wholly owned overseas subsidiary, Dimanche, to purchase components at a value of 4.2 million krona on which Dimanche made a profit of 20% on selling price. The goods were to be delivered on 31 January 20X2 with the

payment due on 31 March 20X2. Planet took out a foreign currency contract on 1 December 20X0 to buy 4.2 million krona on 31 March 20X1 at the forward rate of \$1 = 1.4 krona.

At 30 November 20X2, Planet had two-thirds of the components in inventory. The spot rates were as follows.

*\$1 equivalent*

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| 1 December 20X1  | 1.3 krona  |
| 31 January 20X2  | 1.46 krona |
| 31 March 20X2    | 1.45 krona |
| 30 November 20X2 | 1.35 krona |

The initial purchase of the inventory had been recorded on receipt at the forward rate and the forward rate had been used for the year end valuation of inventory. The directors are unsure as to how to treat the items above both for accounting and disclosure purposes but they have heard that the simplest method is to translate the asset and liability at the forward rate and they wish to use this method.

- (iv) Galaxy has developed a database during the year to 30 November 20X2 and it is included in intangible non-current assets at a cost of \$6 million. The asset comprises the internal and external costs of developing the database. The database is used to produce a technical computing manual which is used by the whole group and sold to other parties. It has quickly become a market leader in this field. Any costs of maintaining the database and the computing manual are written off as incurred. Sales of the manual are expected to generate net revenue of \$4m. The computing manual requires substantial revision every four years.

*Required*

- (a) Explain how the above four issues should be dealt with in the consolidated financial statements of Planet. Show the accounting entries that need to be made. **(19 marks)**
- (b) Prepare a revised group statement of financial position at 30 November 20X2 taking into account the four issues discussed in part (a). **(6 marks)**

## 29 Wingit (50 marks)

**90 mins**

The following draft financial statements relate to the Wingit Group, a public limited company.

**WINGIT GROUP**

**DRAFT GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MAY 20X3**

|  | 20X3<br>\$m  | 20X2<br>\$m  |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                                |              |              |
| Non-current assets                           |              |              |
| Property, plant and equipment                | 1,239        | 1,010        |
| Goodwill                                     | 100          | 83           |
| Investments                                  | 780          | 270          |
|  | <u>2,119</u> | <u>1,363</u> |
| Current assets                               |              |              |
| Inventories                                  | 750          | 588          |
| Trade receivables                            | 660          | 530          |
| Cash and cash equivalents                    | 45           | 140          |
|  | <u>1,455</u> | <u>1,258</u> |
| <b>Total assets</b>                          | <u>3,574</u> | <u>2,621</u> |
| <b>Equity and liabilities</b>                |              |              |
| Equity attributable to owners of the parent: |              |              |
| Share capital: ordinary shares of \$1        | 100          | 70           |
| Share premium account                        | 85           | 15           |
| Revaluation surplus                          | 30           | 10           |
| Retained earnings                            | 405          | 103          |

|                                       | 20X3         | 20X2         |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                       | \$m          | \$m          |
| Translation of foreign operations     | (195)        |              |
|                                       | <u>425</u>   | 198          |
| Non-controlling interest              | 250          | 150          |
| <i>Total equity</i>                   | <u>675</u>   | <u>348</u>   |
| Non-current liabilities               |              |              |
| Redeemable preference shares          |              |              |
| (\$130m at an interest rate of 7% pa) | 136          | 130          |
| Long-term borrowings                  | <u>1,262</u> | <u>930</u>   |
|                                       | <u>1,398</u> | <u>1,060</u> |
| Current liabilities                   | <u>1,501</u> | <u>1,213</u> |
| Total liabilities                     | <u>2,899</u> | <u>2,273</u> |
| <i>Total equity and liabilities</i>   | <u>3,574</u> | <u>2,621</u> |

DRAFT GROUP STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND  
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 20X3

|  | \$m         | \$m            |
|--|-------------|----------------|
| Revenue  |             | 7,310          |
| Cost of sales  |             | <u>(5,920)</u> |
| Gross profit   |             | 1,390          |
| Distribution and administrative expenses                             |             | (762)          |
| Profit on sale of property, plant and equipment                      |             | 15             |
| Interest receivable  | 34          |                |
| Interest payable   | <u>(37)</u> |                |
|  |             | (3)            |
| Share of profit of associates  |             | <u>83</u>      |
| Profit before tax  |             | <u>723</u>     |
| Income tax expense   |             | <u>(198)</u>   |
| Profit for the year  |             | <u>525</u>     |
| Profit attributable to:  |             |                |
| Owners of the parent   |             | 428            |
| Non-controlling interest   |             | <u>97</u>      |
|  |             | <u>525</u>     |
| OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME<br>FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 20X3         |             |                |
|  |             | \$m            |
| <i>Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss</i>         |             |                |
| Surplus on revaluation of property (Wingit)                          |             | 20             |
| <i>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i> |             |                |
| Exchange difference on retranslation of foreign operation (100% sub) |             | (195)          |
| Other comprehensive income (525 – 375) for the year                  |             | <u>(175)</u>   |
|  |             | <u>350</u>     |
| Total comprehensive income for the year                              |             |                |
| Attributable to: owners of the parent                                |             | 253            |
| non-controlling interest   |             | <u>97</u>      |
|  |             | <u>350</u>     |

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 20X3

|  | Share<br>capital<br>\$m | Share<br>premium<br>\$m | Revaluation<br>surplus<br>\$m | Retained<br>earnings<br>\$m | Translation<br>of foreign<br>operations<br>\$m | Parent<br>equity<br>\$m | Non-<br>controlling<br>interest<br>\$m | Total<br>\$m |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| Balance at 31 May 20X2                     | 70                      | 15                      | 10                            | 103                         |  | 198                     | 150                                    | 348          |
| On acquisition<br>of subsidiary            |                         |                         |                               |                             |  |                         | 20                                     | 20           |
| Total comprehensive<br>income for the year |                         |                         | 20                            | 428                         | (195)  | 253                     | 97                                     | 350          |
| Dividends                                  |                         |                         |                               | (126)                       |  | (126)                   | (17)                                   | (143)        |
| Issue of share capital                     | 30                      | 70                      |                               |                             |  | 100                     |  | 100          |
|  | <u>100</u>              | <u>85</u>               | <u>30</u>                     | <u>405</u>                  | <u>(195)</u>                                   | <u>425</u>              | <u>250</u>                             | <u>675</u>   |

The following information is relevant to the Wingit Group.

- (i) Wingit acquired an eighty per cent holding in Regent on 1 June 20X2. The fair values of the assets of Regent on 1 June 20X2 were as follows:

|                               | \$m        |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Property, plant and equipment | 60         |
| Inventories                   | 30         |
| Trade receivables             | 25         |
| Cash and cash equivalents     | 35         |
| Trade payables                | (20)       |
| Taxation                      | (30)       |
|                               | <u>100</u> |

The purchase consideration was \$97 million and comprised 20 million ordinary shares of \$1 in Wingit, valued at \$4 and \$17 million in cash.

- (ii) The movement of property, plant and equipment for the period comprised the following amounts at net book value:

|                                     | \$m          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Balance at 1 June 20X2              | 1,010        |
| Additions (including Regent)        | 278          |
| Revaluations of properties (Wingit) | 20           |
| Disposals                           | (30)         |
| Depreciation                        | (39)         |
| Balance at 31 May 20X3              | <u>1,239</u> |

- (iii) There have been no sales of non-current asset investments in the year. The investments included under non-current assets comprised the following items.

|   | 20X3<br>\$m | 20X2<br>\$m |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Investment in associate   | 300         | 220         |
| Trade investment (including foreign operation of \$400m<br>acquired during year to 31 May 20X3) | <u>480</u>  | <u>50</u>   |
|   | <u>780</u>  | <u>270</u>  |

- (iv) Interest receivable included in trade receivables was \$15m as at 31 May 20X2 and \$17 m as at 31 May 20X3.

- (v) Current liabilities comprises the following items:

|   | 20X3<br>\$m  | 20X2<br>\$m  |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Trade payables (including interest payable \$9m 20X3, Nil 20X2) | 1,193        | 913          |
| Taxation  | 203          | 200          |
| Dividends   | 105          | 100          |
|   | <u>1,501</u> | <u>1,213</u> |

- (vi) Wingit had allotted 10 million ordinary shares of \$1 at a price of \$2 upon the exercise of directors' options during the year.

- (vii) Included in non-current liabilities is a bill of exchange for \$100 million (raised 30 June 20X2) which was given to a supplier on the purchase of property, plant and equipment which is payable on 1 July 20X3.
- (viii) The exchange difference included in 'other comprehensive income' relates to a translation involving a foreign equity investment in Peer of \$400 million. A loan of \$300 million was taken out during the year to finance the foreign country investment. (Both amounts are after re-translation at the year end.)
- (ix) The preference share dividends are always paid in full on 1 July each year, and are included in interest payable in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. Additionally, a charge of \$6 million has been made in the interest payable figure to provide for a premium payable on the preference shares on redemption.

*Required*

- (a) Prepare a group statement of cash flows using the indirect method for the Wingit Group plc for the year ended 31 May 20X3 in accordance with the requirements of IAS 7 *Statement of cash flows*.

The notes to the statement of cash flows are not required.

**(27 marks)**

Wingit has a subsidiary, Springit. On 1 June 20X3, the chief executive of Springit, Mr Springer, retired from the company. The ordinary share capital at the time of his retirement was six million shares of \$1. Mr Springer owns 52% of the ordinary shares of Springit and the remainder is owned by employees. As an incentive to the new management, Mr Springer agreed to a new executive compensation plan which commenced after his retirement. The plan provides cash bonuses to the board of directors when the company's earnings per share exceeds the 'normal' earnings per share which has been agreed at \$0.50 per share. The cash bonuses are calculated as being 20% of the profit generated in excess of that required to give an earnings per share figure of \$0.50.

The new board of directors has reported that the compensation to be paid is \$360,000 based on earnings per share of \$0.80 for the year ended 31 May 20X4. However, Mr Springer is surprised at the size of the compensation as other companies in the same industry were either breaking even or making losses in the period. He was anticipating that no bonus would be paid during the year as he felt that the company would not be able to earn the equivalent of the normal earnings per share figure of \$0.50.

Mr Springer, who had taken no active part in management decisions, decided to take advantage of his role as non-executive director and demanded an explanation of how the earnings per share figure of \$0.80 had been calculated. His investigations revealed the following information.

- (i) The company received a grant from the government of \$5 million towards the cost of purchasing a non-current asset of \$15 million. The grant had been credited to profit or loss in total and the non-current asset had been recognised at \$15 million in the statement of financial position and depreciated at a rate of 10% per annum on the straight line basis. The directors explained that current thinking by the International Accounting Standards Board was that the accounting standard on government grants was conceptually wrong because it misstates the assets and liabilities of the company and hence they were following the approach which has recently been advocated in a recent discussion paper.
- (ii) Shortly after Mr Springer had retired from the company, Springit made an initial public offering of its shares. The sponsor of the issue charged a fee of \$300,000. The fee on 1 August 20X3 was paid by issuing one hundred thousand \$1 ordinary shares at a market value of \$120,000 and by cash of \$180,000. The directors had charged the cash paid as an expense in profit or loss. Further, they had credited the value of the shares issued to the sponsor in the profit or loss for the year as they felt that the shares were issued for no consideration and that, therefore, they should offset the cash paid by the company. The public offering was made on 1 August 20X3 and involved vesting four million ordinary (exclusive of the sponsor's shares) shares of \$1 at a market price of \$1.20. Mr Springer and other current shareholders decided to sell three million of their shares as part of the offer, leaving one million new shares to be issued. The cost of issuing shares are to be regarded as an element of the net consideration.

- (iii) The directors sold on 1 June 20X3 a property under a 20 year lease to a company, Highball, which the bank had set up to act as a vehicle for investments and special projects. The consideration for the lease is \$4.5 million. Springit has signed an unconditional agreement to repurchase the lease of the property after four years for a fixed amount of \$5.5 million. The property has been taken off the statement of financial position and the profit on the transaction, which has been included in profit or loss, is \$500,000. The profit has been calculated by comparing the value of the property with the consideration received.

Depreciation on the property is charged at 5% per annum on the carrying value of the asset. The effective interest rate is 5.14%.

- (iv) Springit had made a 1 for 4 rights issue on 30 June 20X4. The cost of the shares was \$1.60 per share and the market price was \$2.00 per share before the rights issue. The directors had ignored this transaction because it occurred after the year end but they intend to capitalise retained earnings to reflect the bonus element of the rights issue in the financial statements for the year ending 31 May 20X5. The financial statements are not yet approved for the current year.
- (v) The directors had calculated earnings per share for the year ended 31 May 20X4 as follows.

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Profit after tax       | \$4.8 million |
| Ordinary shares of \$1 | 6,000,000     |
| Earnings per share     | \$0.80        |

Mr Springer was concerned over the way that earnings per share had been calculated by the directors and also he felt that some of the above accounting practices were at best unethical and at worst fraudulent. He, therefore, asked your technical and ethical advice on the practices of the directors.

*Required*

- (b) Advise Mr Springer as to whether earnings per share has been accurately calculated by the directors showing a revised calculation of earnings per share. **(16 marks)**
- (c) Discuss whether the directors may have acted unethically in the way they have calculated earnings per share. **(7 marks)**





# Exam answer bank

## 1 Conceptual Framework

- (a) The stated **purposes** of the *Conceptual Framework* are as follows.
- (i) To assist the Board in the development of future IFRSs and in its review of existing IFRSs.
  - (ii) To assist the Board in promoting harmonisation of regulations, accounting standards and procedures by reducing the number of alternative accounting treatment permitted by IFRSs.
  - (iii) To assist national standard-setting bodies in developing national standards.
  - (iv) To assist preparers of financial statements in applying IFRSs and in dealing with topics that have yet to form the subject of an IFRS.
  - (v) To assist auditors in forming an opinion on whether financial statements comply with IFRSs.
  - (vi) To assist users of financial statements in interpreting the information contained in financial statements prepared in compliance with IFRSs.
  - (vii) To provide those who are interested in the work of the IASB with information about its approach to the formulation of IFRSs.
- (b) The people who might be **interested** in financial information about the company may be classified as follows.
- (i) **Shareholders in the company.** They will be interested in the company's profitability and its ability to pay dividends. They will also be interested in the company's long term prospects.
  - (ii) **Managers of the company.** These are people appointed by the company's owners to supervise the day-to-day activities of the company. They need information about the company's financial situation as it is currently and as it is expected to be in the future. This is to enable them to manage the business efficiently and to take effective control and planning decisions.
  - (iii) **Trade contacts,** including suppliers who provide goods to the company on credit and customers who purchase the goods or services provided by the company. Suppliers will want to know about the company's ability to pay its debts; customers need to know that the company is a secure source of supply and is in no danger of having to close down.
  - (iv) **Providers of finance to the company.** These might include a bank which permits the company to operate an overdraft, or provides longer-term finance by granting a loan. The bank will want to ensure that the company is able to keep up with interest payments, and eventually to repay the amounts advanced.
  - (v) **The taxation authorities,** who will want to know about business profits in order to assess the tax payable by the company on its profits and any sales taxes.
  - (vi) **Employees of the company.** These should have a right to information about the company's financial situation, because their future careers and the size of their wages and salaries depend on it.

## 2 Fundamental principles

**Tutorial note.** Don't let this scenario panic you in the long list of details it gives you. Deal with each point as it arises. Also, don't be afraid to draw a conclusion about the facts given to you, but remember to back your opinions up with justification. Consider what the fundamental principles and general guidance of the ACCA say, but also think about practical issues, such as ease of modern communication. Deal with the two issues raised in the scenario (the individual partner issue and the firm split) separately, there is no need to assume any connection between them. However, you may feel there is a point to be made about the juxtaposition of the two events.

## Independence

It is important that auditors are, and are seen to be, independent. **Independence** is at the heart of the auditing profession as auditors claim to give an **impartial, objective** opinion on the truth and fairness of the financial statements.

### Objectivity

A **family relationship** between an auditor and the client **can substantially affect the objectivity** of the audit, so auditors are advised not to build close personal relationships with audit clients and should not audit a company where family are employed in a capacity which is sensitive to the accounts, for example, in the finance department, although this is **not prohibited by law**.

In this instance, the **partner was not the reporting partner** for the audit client in which his brother-in-law was a financial controller. According to generally accepted ethical practice then, the firm appeared to be independent of the audit client if the related partner did not have anything to do with the audit.

### Resolution?

The regulatory body required the audit partner to move 400 miles. This presumably implies that the partner was requested to change offices within the firm by which he was employed. Given current levels of computer networking and other **communications** common in business, this would appear to be an **arbitrary distinction**, as a partner in an office 400 miles away could have similar access and influence over a single audit carried out by the firm as a partner in the locality.

### Independence in appearance

However, in this situation, the regulatory body appear to be concerned about the appearance of independence. They appear to be concerned that the public will not perceive the distinction between a partner and a partner who reports on a specific engagement. This may or may not be fair. Arguably, it is only in publicising the problem that the public are likely to have a perception at all.

Also, given the comments made about modern communications above, the public are unlikely to be convinced that moving a member of staff to a different office will solve this independence problem, if they perceive that there is one.

### Split of audit firm

The decision of the firm to split into three divisions could **enhance the public perception of the independence of the audit department**. While there might be **underlying scepticism** relating to the reasons behind the split (which could merely be for marketing purposes or to enable non-audit divisions to raise capital more easily), the **underlying benefit for objectivity still exists**.

However, some audit clients will be unhappy with the move of the firm as it will entail their appointing several different service providers to gain the services they previously got from the one audit firm.

## 3 Tree

- (a) IAS 18 *Revenue* states that the following conditions must be satisfied before revenue from the sale of goods can be recognised.
  - (i) The entity **has transferred to the buyer the significant risks and reward** of ownership of the goods. In most cases, transfer of the risks and rewards of ownership coincides with the transfer of legal title or the passing of possession to the buyer, but **this is not always the case**. If the entity retains significant risk of ownership, the transaction is not a sale and revenue cannot be recognised. For example, the entity might retain an obligation for unsatisfactory performance not covered by normal warranty provisions. However, if the risk retained is insignificant, the transaction is a sale and revenue is recognised. For example, a retail sale is recognised where a refund is offered if the customer is not satisfied, provided that the seller can reliably estimate future returns and recognises a liability based on previous experience and other relevant factors.

- (ii) The entity retains **neither continuing managerial involvement** to the degree usually associated with ownership **nor effective control** over the goods sold.
- (iii) The amount of revenue can be **measured reliably**.
- (iv) It is **probable** that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity. For example, it may be uncertain that a foreign government will grant permission to remit consideration from a sale in a foreign country. Revenue cannot be recognised until the uncertainty is removed.
- (v) The costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be **measured reliably**.

(b) **Transaction 1**

The key issue here is whether Tree has retained the risks inherent in owning the property. This depends on whether Tree is likely to exercise its option to repurchase the property in practice.

- (i) Tree can repurchase the property at any time until 28 February 20X6, but the bank cannot require repurchase. This means that Tree is **protected against any fall in the value of the property** below \$5 million. This suggests that **some risk** has been **transferred to the bank**.
- (ii) In practice, the value of the property is expected to rise by 5% each year for the foreseeable future. Therefore it is **extremely unlikely** that the value of the property will fall below \$5 million.
- (iii) Tree **can benefit from the expected rise** in the value of the property by buying it back at a price that is well below its anticipated market value.

In conclusion, Tree is **likely to exercise the option** and therefore has **retained the risk of changes** in the property's market value. Other important aspects of the transaction are:

- (i) The 'sale' price of the property was **only 50% of its market value**.
- (ii) Tree occupies the **property rent-free** (a reward of ownership).
- (iii) The repurchase price depends on the **length of time that elapses** between the date of the agreement and the date of repurchase, **rather than on the market value** of the property.

Therefore, the transaction is essentially a **loan secured on the property**, rather than an outright sale. The \$50,000 payable for each month that the bank holds the property is **interest** on the loan.

The property **remains in the consolidated statement of financial position** at its cost or market value (depending on the accounting policy adopted by Tree). The **loan** of \$5 million and **accrued interest** of \$300,000 ( $6 \times 50,000$ ) are reported under **non-current liabilities**. Interest of \$300,000 is recognised in consolidated profit or loss.

**Transaction 2**

The key issue is whether Tree **retains the risks associated** with the ownership of the branch.

Tree **continues to control the operations** of the branch and the amount that it receives from Vehicle is the operating profit of the branch less the interest payable on the loan. Tree also suffers the effect of any operating losses made by the branch. Therefore, the **position is essentially the same as before** the 'sale'.

Although Vehicle is not a subsidiary of Tree plc as defined by IFRS 10 *Consolidated financial statements*, it is a special purpose entity (**quasi-subsidiary**). It gives rise to benefits for Tree that are in substance no different from those that would arise if it were a subsidiary. Its assets, liabilities, income and expenses **must be included** in the consolidated financial statements.

The assets and liabilities of Vehicle are included in the consolidated statement of financial position at \$7 million (their original value to the group). The loan of \$8 million is recognised as a non-current liability. The profit on disposal of \$1 million and the operating fee of \$1,200,000 are cancelled as intra-group transactions. The operating profit of \$2,000,000 is included in consolidated profit or loss as is the loan interest of \$800,000.

## 4 Camel Telecom

- (a) The licence is an intangible asset accounted for under IAS 38 *Intangible assets*.

Given that the market value on the date of acquisition was more than the amount paid by Camel, a government grant has been given.

This means that the asset is normally initially recognised at its market value of \$370m, showing the difference between the market value and amount paid (\$26m) as deferred income. Alternatively the asset can be recognised at its cost of \$344m.

Given that it has a limited rather than indefinite useful life it will be amortised over the 10 year licence period to a zero residual value. Any deferred income will be amortised as a credit to profit or loss over the same period and disclosed divided between its current and non-current portions in the statement of financial position.

Either way the annual effect on profit or loss is a charge of \$34.4m (either  $\$344\text{m}/10$  or  $\$370\text{m}/10$  less a credit of  $\$26\text{m}/10$ ).

The lower take up of 3.5G services is an impairment indicator and so an impairment test must be undertaken at the year end. However, after taking into account amortisation for the period, the net book value of the asset at the year end is \$309.6m ( $\$344\text{m} - \$34.4\text{m}$ ) or \$333m ( $\$370\text{m} - \$37\text{m}$ ) if initially measured at fair value due to the grant). Therefore the asset is not impaired.

The asset cannot be revalued upwards to \$335m because IAS 38 requires an active market to exist for revaluation of intangible assets and, despite the fact that the licence can be sold, there is no active market in these four licences due to their nature. An active market is defined as a market in which transactions for the particular asset take place with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis. This is not the case as there are only four licences.

- (b) Camel's intention is to use the land for its new head office. Therefore it does not meet the definition of investment property under IAS 40 *Investment Property*:

'property held to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both, *rather than for*:

- use in the production or supply of goods or services or for administrative purposes, or
- sale in the ordinary course of business.'

This is confirmed by IAS 40 para 9(c). Therefore the land is held under IAS 16 *Property, Plant and Equipment* and is initially recorded at its cost of \$10.4m. Being land, ordinarily it would not be depreciated.

The land can either be held under the cost model or revaluation model depending on Camel's accounting policy which applies to *all* of its land as a class.

If revalued, the fair value measurement of the land should take into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its *highest and best use* or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use. The highest and best use of an asset takes into account the use that is physically possible, *legally permissible* and financially feasible. At the current year end, as planning permission has not been granted, use for development is not legally permissible so the value of \$14.3m cannot be used. If Camel's policy is to revalue its land, it can be revalued to \$10.6m at the year end, i.e. its value as farmland. The gain of \$0.2m ( $\$10.6\text{m} - \$10.4\text{m}$ ) would be reported in other comprehensive income.

- (c) The land is also used for the supply of services and therefore meets the definition of property, plant and equipment. However, if the portion leased to other parties is separate and could be sold separately, that portion could be treated separately as investment property.

Camel therefore has the option of using the cost model (for both property, plant and equipment and investment property portions) or the revaluation model (for the property, plant and equipment portion) or the fair value model (for the investment property portion). This depends on Camel's underlying accounting policy.

Given that the sites have increased substantially in value, this would result in gains in other comprehensive income (for the property, plant and equipment portion) or profit or loss (for the investment property portion) if the revaluation/fair value models are used for the property, plant and equipment/ investment property portions respectively. Any rental income is credited to profit or loss (assuming that being leases of land, they are operating leases).

Any portion of land held under the fair value model is not depreciated, whereas any other scenario is theoretically subject to depreciation, but as land generally has an unlimited useful life, no depreciation would ordinarily be necessary.

- (d) An exchange transaction has occurred here. Under IAS 16 *Property, plant and equipment* and IAS 38 *Intangible assets* which cover exchanges of tangible and intangible assets, the cost of the new asset is measured at fair value, unless the transaction lacks commercial substance, which does not appear to be the case here, as the assets given up relate to different products to those acquired, i.e. landline vs mobile businesses.

The best indication of the fair value of the assets acquired is the fair value of the non-monetary assets given up (\$320m) plus the monetary consideration of \$980m. A gain or loss is therefore reported in Camel's financial statements on derecognition of its fixed line ADSL business comparing the selling price (\$320m) with net book value.

Part of the \$980m paid to Purple includes the value of the Purple brand (i.e. its customer base and their loyalty and the brand recognition in the market). The brand must be given up after 1 year it will have no value to Camel in that country at that time. However, during the period of re-branding from Purple to Mobistar, the brand still has a value

Consequently a fair value should be attributed to the brand during the acquisition accounting and the brand should be amortised to a residual value of zero over the next year.

- (e) The Mobistar brand is internally generated as it developed the brand itself. Therefore under IAS 38 *Intangible assets*, the brand cannot be recognised in the financial statements of Camel as its value is deemed not to be able to be measured on a reliable basis.

Camel should analyse further the impact of the stolen customer details. An impairment test may be necessary on Camel's national business if customers are leaving beyond what had been expected in normal market conditions. Further, a provision may be necessary for a fine over the loss of private data under national law since the event occurred before the year end, which would be considered the obligating event for fines under IAS 37 *Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets*. Disclosure would also need to be made of the nature of the incident/provision and uncertainty over the amount of any fine accrued.

## 5 Acquirer

**Tutorial note.** This question tests students' ability to apply the principles of IFRS 3 and IAS 36. In Part (d) you should have computed the value in use of the relevant net assets. This involved allocating assets into cash generating units. In Part (e) you needed to allocate this impairment loss by computing the carrying value of the goodwill and therefore of the total carrying value of the individual subsidiary. The whole impairment loss was allocated to goodwill. Remember that the impairment review has to be done in two stages.

- (a) To determine whether impairment of a non-current asset has occurred, it is necessary to compare the carrying amount of the asset with its **recoverable amount**. The recoverable amount is the **higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use**. It is not always easy to estimate value in use. In particular, it is not always practicable to identify cash flows arising from an individual non-current asset. If this is the case, value in use should be calculated at the level of **cash generating units**.

A **cash generating unit** is defined as a group of assets, liabilities and associated goodwill that generates income that is **largely independent of the reporting entity's other income streams**. The

assets and liabilities include those already involved in generating the income and an appropriate portion of those used to generate more than one income stream.

- (b) IAS 36 *Impairment of assets* requires that there should be some indication of impairment of a non-current asset before an impairment review is carried out. However, IFRS 3 *Business combinations* sets out different requirements for the special case of goodwill.

IFRS 3 states that goodwill resulting from a business combination should be recognised in the statement of financial position and measured at cost. Goodwill is **not amortised**. Instead, it should be **reviewed for impairment annually** and written down to its recoverable amount where necessary. Where goodwill is acquired in a business combination during the current annual period, it should be tested for impairment before the end of the current annual period. Prospects was acquired on 30 June 20X0, so the impairment review should be carried out by 31 December 20X0.

- (c) An impairment review involves a **comparison of the carrying value of a non-current asset or goodwill with its recoverable amount**. To the extent that the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount, the non-current asset or goodwill is impaired and needs to be written down.

**Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. Generally,** recoverable amount is taken to be **value in use**. This is because fair value less costs to sell may be difficult to determine, and may in any case be very low, because the asset is only of use in the business rather than of value in the open market. This means that an impairment review usually involves computing value in use, particularly in the case of goodwill.

It is not always easy to estimate value in use. In particular, it is not always practicable to identify cash flows arising from an individual non-current asset. This is certainly true of goodwill, which cannot generate cash flows in isolation from other assets. If this is the case, value in use should be calculated at the level of **cash generating units**. A cash generating unit is the smallest grouping of assets that can be said to generate cash flows that are independent of those generated by other units. To calculate value in use, we therefore need to **identify the cash generating units and the cash flows attributable to them**.

- (d) The value in use of the assets of Unit A is \$72m, which is less than the carrying value of \$85m. There is therefore an **impairment loss of \$13m**. This must be allocated as follows.

- (i) To any **assets** which have suffered **obvious impairment**. We are not given any indication that there are any such assets here.
- (ii) To **goodwill** in the unit. We are not told that there is any.
- (iii) To **other assets** in the unit, ie the patents of \$5 and tangible non-current assets of \$60m.
- (iv) Therefore the \$13m is written off in proportion against patents ( $5/65 \times \$13m = \$1m$ ) and tangible non-current assets ( $60/65 \times \$13m = \$12m$ ).

- (e) The goodwill on consolidation is:

|                     | \$m       |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Cost of investment  | 260       |
| Net assets acquired | 180       |
|                     | <u>80</u> |

This goodwill cannot be allocated to individual units, so the impairment review must be carried out in two stages.

#### Stage 1: Review individual units for impairment.

It is clear that the assets of unit A have suffered impairment, since the value in use of \$72m is less than the carrying value of \$85m. The assets of unit A must therefore be written down to \$72m.

#### Stage 2: Compare the adjusted carrying value of the net assets of Prospects, including goodwill, with the value in use of the whole business.

The carrying value is as follows.

|          | \$m        |
|----------|------------|
| Goodwill | 80         |
| Unit A   | 72         |
| Unit B   | 55         |
| Unit C   | 60         |
| Total    | <u>267</u> |

The value in use of the whole business is \$205m, so an additional impairment loss of \$267m – \$205m = \$62m must be provided for. This is allocated first to goodwill, reducing the goodwill to \$80m – \$62m = \$18m.

## 6 Investor

- (a) The recognition and measurement of goodwill on acquisition is governed by IFRS 3. Where the purchase price is paid in instalments, the cost of the investment is calculated on a discounted cash basis and the fair value is based on present values.

*Goodwill arising on acquisitions*

|  | \$m         | \$m           |
|--|-------------|---------------|
| Cost of Cornwall $\left(30\text{m} + \frac{30\text{m}}{1.10^2}\right)$ |             | 54.793        |
| Net assets   | 55          |               |
| Add back pension provision   | 6           |               |
| Deduct pension scheme deficit  | <u>(11)</u> |               |
|  | 50          |               |
| Fair value of assets acquired (80% × \$50m)                            |             | 40.000        |
| Goodwill   |             | <u>14.793</u> |

Goodwill recognised in a business acquisition is not amortised, but reviewed for impairment annually.

- (b) **MEMORANDUM**

To: The financial director  
From: The accountant  
Subject: Intangible assets

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 It is group policy to write off all intangible assets over twenty years. This complies with the requirements of IAS 38.  
1.2 However it is possible to select a longer period.

### 2 Determining the useful life of an intangible asset

- 2.1 IAS 38 states that an entity should assess the useful life of its intangible assets. Assets with a finite useful life are amortised over that useful life.  
2.2 The useful life of an intangible asset depends on many factors. For example, many computer related assets have short lives because they are susceptible to technological obsolescence. Where an asset arises from contractual or legal rights, the period of the rights normally determines the useful life. However, some types of asset, such as brand names, may have very long lives or indefinite lives.  
2.3 An intangible asset has an indefinite useful life when there is **no foreseeable limit** to the period over which the asset is expected to generate net cash inflows for the entity.  
2.4 IAS 38 allows intangible assets to be treated as having indefinite lives. An intangible asset with an indefinite life is not amortised.  
2.5 However, it is clearly not appropriate to treat assets as having an indefinite useful life unless this can be demonstrated to be the case. IAS 38 requires that the useful life of an asset

should be realistic; it is not acceptable to select a useful life simply on the basis of practical simplicity or expediency.

- 2.6 Therefore, it is possible to avoid amortising intangible assets in theory; but the intangible assets needs to be able to be continually measured, so that impairment reviews can be carried out.

### 3 Future implications

- 3.1 Where an intangible asset is assessed as having an indefinite useful life, IAS 38 requires an impairment review to be carried out annually. In addition, the useful life of the asset should be reviewed each period to determine whether events and circumstances continue to support this assessment.
- 3.2 If an asset is assessed as having a finite useful life, then an impairment review is only required if there are indications that the carrying value is not recoverable.
- 3.3 Therefore adopting your proposals would mean carrying out an annual impairment review, which could be costly both in time and staff.

#### (c) Arguments for capitalisation

- (i) The statement of financial position reflects commercial reality if brands are included, provided they meet fully the IAS 38 definition of a purchased intangible asset.
- (ii) IAS 38 does not permit non purchased or internally generated brands to be recognised. This may be unfair since predator entities could acquire entities with valuable brand names at less than true value.
- (iii) Many entities would argue that the inclusion of non-purchased brands might provide valuable information to users. However, the difficulties associated with revaluation and assigning an appropriate amortisation period may negate these benefits.

## 7 Radost

#### (a) Notes to the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

##### *Defined benefit expense recognised in profit or loss*

|  | \$'m          |
|--|---------------|
| Current service cost                       | 3.75          |
| Past service cost – plan amendment         | (6.00)        |
| Net interest income (from SOFP: 4.5 – 5.2) | <u>(0.70)</u> |
| Profit or loss expense/(credit)            | <u>(2.95)</u> |

##### *Other comprehensive income (items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss):*

##### *Remeasurements of defined benefit plans*

|  | \$'m          |
|--|---------------|
| Actuarial gain/(loss) on defined benefit obligation                | (4.75)        |
| Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest) | <u>2.97</u>   |
|  | <u>(1.78)</u> |

#### Notes to the statement of financial position

##### *Net defined benefit asset recognised in the statement of financial position*

|   | \$'m           |
|---|----------------|
| Fair value of plan assets                   | 64.17          |
| Present value of defined benefit obligation | <u>(44.00)</u> |
| Net asset                                   | <u>20.17</u>   |



*Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation*

|  | \$'m         |
|--|--------------|
| Opening defined benefit obligation                         | 45.00        |
| Interest on obligation ( $45 \times 10\%$ )                | 4.50         |
| Current service cost                                       | 3.75         |
| Past service cost  | (6.00)       |
| Benefits paid  | (8.00)       |
| Loss on remeasurement recognised in OCI (balancing figure) | 4.75         |
| Closing defined benefit obligation – per actuary           | <u>44.00</u> |

*Changes in the fair value of plan assets*

|  | \$'m         |
|--|--------------|
| Opening fair value of plan assets                          | 52.00        |
| Interest on plan assets ( $52 \times 10\%$ )               | 5.20         |
| Contributions  | 12.00        |
| Benefits paid  | (8.00)       |
| Gain on remeasurement recognised in OCI (balancing figure) | 2.97         |
| Closing fair value of plan assets – per actuary            | <u>64.17</u> |

- (b) Legally the assets of the Radost pension plan do not belong to Radost once the contributions are made. This is because to meet the definition of plan assets of a post-employment benefit plan under IAS 19 *Employee Benefits* they must be held by an entity/fund that is legally separate from the reporting entity. This provides the employees with a measure of protection should the entity go bankrupt or should the directors fraudulently attempt to plunder the assets of the pension plan. Nevertheless, the substance of the arrangement is that the assets are held exclusively to pay the company's future defined benefit obligation and it is therefore logical that they should be shown in the company's statement of financial position reducing that liability. In the case of plan assets that exceed the value of the associated obligation (as in Radost's case), a net asset would normally be recognised in the company's statement of financial position on the grounds that the definition of an asset ('a resource controlled by the entity as a result of past events and from which future economic benefits are expected to flow to the entity') is met. In this case the 'benefits' are reduced future contributions as the plan is in surplus.

## 8 DT Group

- (a) (i) IAS 12 focuses on the statement of financial position in accounting for deferred taxation. It is based on the principle that a deferred tax liability or asset should be recognised if the recovery of the carrying amount of the asset or the settlement of the liability will result in higher or lower tax payments in the future than would be the case if that recovery or settlement were to have no tax consequences. Future tax consequences of past events determine the deferred tax liabilities or assets. (IAS 12 gives certain exceptions to this general rule, eg deferred tax is not provided on goodwill.) The calculation of deferred tax balances is determined by looking at the difference between the tax base of an asset and its statement of financial position carrying value. Thus the calculation is focused on the statement of financial position.

Differences between the carrying amount of the asset and liability and its tax base are called 'temporary differences'. The word 'temporary' is used because it is a fundamental proposition in the IAS framework that an enterprise will realise its assets and settle its liabilities over time at which point the tax consequences will crystallise.

The objective of the temporary difference approach is to recognise the future tax consequences inherent in the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position. The approach looks at the tax payable if the assets and liabilities were realised for the pre tax amounts recorded in the statement of financial position. The presumption is that there will be recovery of statement of financial position items out of future revenues and tax needs to be provided in relation to such a recovery. This involves looking at temporary differences between the carrying values of the assets and liabilities and

the tax base of the elements. The standard recognises two types of temporary differences, which are described as 'taxable' and 'deductible' temporary differences.

- (ii) By definition, deferred tax involves the postponement of the tax liability and it is possible, therefore, to regard the deferred liability as equivalent to an interest free loan from the tax authorities. Thus it could be argued that it is appropriate to reflect this benefit of postponement by discounting the liability and recording a lower tax charge. This discount is then amortised over the period of deferment. The purpose of discounting is to measure future cash flows at their present value and, therefore, deferred tax balances can only be discounted if they can be viewed as future cash flows that are not already measured at their present value.

Some temporary differences clearly represent future tax cash flows. For example, where there is an accrual for an expense that is to be paid in the future and tax relief will only be given when the expense is paid. Some expenses are already measured on a discounted basis (eg retirement benefits), and it is not appropriate to discount the resulting deferred tax. However, there is controversy over whether it is valid to discount deferred tax when tax cash flows have already occurred as in the case of accelerated tax depreciation. It is argued that this temporary difference does not give rise to a future cash flow and there is no basis for discounting. An alternative view is that accelerated tax depreciation is a liability that will be repaid in the form of higher tax assessments in the future. It can be argued that there are two cash flows, with the second cash flow occurring on the reversal of the temporary difference, as the tax payment will be higher.

Discounting, however, makes the deferred tax computation more difficult to calculate and more subjective. Also there will be an additional cost in scheduling and calculating deferred taxation, as well as the problem of the determination of the discount rate. IAS 12 specifically prohibits discounting.

(b) **Calculation of deferred tax liability**

|   | <i>Carrying<br/>amount</i><br>\$m | <i>Tax<br/>base</i><br>\$m | <i>Temporary<br/>differences</i><br>\$m |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Goodwill (note 1)   | 14                                | –                          | –                                       |
| Subsidiary (note 1)   | 76                                | 60                         | 16                                      |
| Inventories (note 2)  | 24                                | 30                         | (6)                                     |
| Property, plant and equipment (note 3)                              | 2,600                             | 1,920                      | 680                                     |
| Other temporary differences   |                                   |                            | 90                                      |
| Liability for health care benefits                                  | (100)                             | 0                          | (100)                                   |
| Unrelieved tax losses (note 4)                                      |                                   |                            | (100)                                   |
| Property sold – tax due 30.11.20X4 (165/30%)                        |                                   |                            | 550                                     |
| Temporary differences   |                                   |                            | <u>1,130</u>                            |
| Deferred tax liability (680 + 90 + 550)                             | 1,320                             | at 30%                     | 396                                     |
| Deferred tax liability  | 16                                | at 25%                     | 4                                       |
| Deferred tax asset (200)  | (200)                             | at 30%                     | (60)                                    |
| Deferred tax asset  | (6)                               | at 25%                     | (1.5)                                   |
|   | <u>1,130</u>                      |                            | <u>338.5</u>                            |
| Deferred tax liability b/d (given)                                  |                                   |                            | 280                                     |
| Deferred tax attributable to subsidiary to goodwill (76 – 60) × 25% |                                   |                            | 4                                       |
| ∴ Deferred tax expense for the year charged to P/L (balance)        |                                   |                            | 54.5                                    |
| Deferred tax liability c/d (from above)                             |                                   |                            | <u>338.5</u>                            |

*Notes*

- 1 As no deduction is available for the cost of goodwill in the subsidiary's tax jurisdiction, then the tax base of goodwill is zero. Paragraph 15(a) of IAS 12, states that DT Group should not recognise a deferred tax liability of the temporary difference associated in B's jurisdiction

with the goodwill. Goodwill will be increased by the amount of the deferred tax liability of the subsidiary ie \$4 million.

- 2 Unrealised group profit eliminated on consolidation are provided for at the receiving company's rate of tax (ie at 25%).
- 3 The tax that would arise if the properties were disposed of at their revalued amounts which was provided at the beginning of the year will be included in the temporary difference arising on the property, plant and equipment at 30 November 20X1.
- 4 DT Group has unrelieved tax losses of \$300m. This will be available for offset against current year's profits (\$110m) and against profits for the year ending 30 November 20X2 (\$100m). Because of the uncertainty about the availability of taxable profits in 20X3, no deferred tax asset can be recognised for any losses which may be offset against this amount. Therefore, a deferred tax asset may be recognised for the losses to be offset against taxable profits in 20X2. That is  $\$100\text{m} \times 30\%$  ie \$30m.

#### *Comment*

The deferred tax liability of DT Group will rise in total by \$335.5 million (\$338.5m – \$3m), thus reducing net assets, distributable profits, and post-tax earnings. The profit for the year will be reduced by \$54.5 million which would probably be substantially more under IAS 12 than the old method of accounting for deferred tax. A prior period adjustment will occur of \$280m – \$3m as IAS are being applied for the first time (IFRS 1) ie \$277m. The borrowing position of the company may be affected and the directors may decide to cut dividend payments. However, the amount of any unprovided deferred tax may have been disclosed under the previous GAAP standard used. IAS 12 brings this liability into the statement of financial position but if the bulk of the liability had already been disclosed the impact on the share price should be minimal.

## 9 PQR

### **Investment in debentures**

Given that these debentures are planned to be held until redemption, under IFRS 9 *Financial instruments* they would be held at amortised cost, on the assumption that:

- (a) The objective of the business model within which the asset is held is to hold assets in order to collect contractual cash flows, and
- (b) The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal outstanding.

This means that they are initially shown at their cost (including any transaction costs) and their value increased over time to the redemption value by applying a constant effective interest rate which takes into account not only the annual income due from the coupon, but also amortisation of the redemption premium. Their value is reduced by distributions received, ie the coupon.

Consequently the amortised cost valuation of these debentures at the year end would be:

|   |               |                         |
|---|---------------|-------------------------|
| Cost (40,000 – 6,000)                   | 34,000        |                         |
| Effective interest at 8.6%              | 2,924         | shown as finance income |
| Coupon received ( $4\% \times 40,000$ ) | (1,600)       | Debited to cash         |
|   | <u>35,324</u> |                         |

*The debentures are an asset belonging to the equity holders and so as the increase in value is recognised until redemption, the equity of the business will increase, marginally reducing gearing.*

### **Forward contract**

Providing the forward meets the following criteria it qualifies for hedge accounting:

- Designated as a hedge on entering into the contract (including documentation of company's strategy)

- Expected to be 'highly effective' during its whole life (ie gains/losses on the hedging instrument vs losses/gains on the hedged item or *vice versa* fall within the ratio 80% to 125% – this is likely to be the case with a foreign currency forward contract, IAS 39, para AG108)
- The hedge effectiveness can be reliably measured.

A foreign currency forward contract can be argued to be either a hedge of the future cash flow or a hedge of the fair value of the machine to be purchased. IAS 39 *Financial instruments: recognition and measurement* therefore allows foreign currency hedges of firm commitments to be classed as either a cash flow hedge or a fair value hedge.

If the contract is classed as a cash flow hedge, given that the machine is not yet recognised in the books, any gain or loss on the hedging instrument is split into two components:

- The effective portion of the hedge (which matches the change in expected cash flow) is recognised initially in other comprehensive income (ie recognised in reserves). It is transferred out of reserves either when the asset is recognised (adjusting the asset base and future depreciation) or when the cash flow is recognised in profit or loss (eg by depreciation) as a reclassification adjustment. Both options therefore apply the accruals concept.
- The ineffective portion of the hedge is recognised in profit or loss immediately as it has not hedged anything.

If the contract is classed as a fair value hedge, all gains and losses on the hedging instrument must be recognised immediately in profit or loss. However, in order to match those against the asset hedged, the gain or loss on the fair value of the asset hedged is also recognised in profit or loss (and as an asset or liability in the statement of financial position). This is arguably less transparent as it results in part of the asset value (the change in fair value) being recognised in the statement of financial position until the purchase actually occurs – consequently, IAS 39 allows the option to treat foreign currency forward contracts as a cash flow hedge.

*Gearing will be different depending on whether the forward contract is accounted for as a cash flow hedge or a fair value hedge (and whether a gain or loss on the hedging instrument occurs). Gearing will be less volatile if a fair value hedge is used as the change in fair value of the hedged asset is also recognised offsetting gains or losses on the hedging instrument, whereas this is not the case until the asset is purchased (and recognised) for the cash flow hedge.*

### **Redeemable preference shares**

Redeemable preference shares, although called shares, are not, in substance, equity, they are a debt instrument, ie a loan made to the company which receives interest and is paid back at a later date.

Consequently, IAS 32 requires them to be classed as such, ie as a non-current liability in the statement of financial position. The 'dividends' paid will be shown in profit or loss as finance costs and accrued at the end of the year if outstanding, whether declared or not.

The shares are consequently a financial liability held at amortised cost. In this case, given that the shares are issued and redeemed at the same value, the effective interest rate and nominal coupon rate will be the same (6%) and each year \$6,000 will be shown as a finance cost in profit or loss and the balance outstanding under non-current liabilities at each year end will be \$100,000 as follows:

|                            |                |                       |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
|                            | \$             |                       |
| Cash received/ b/d value   | 100,000        |                       |
| Effective interest at 6%   | 6,000          | shown as finance cost |
| Coupon paid (6% × 100,000) | (6,000)        | credited to cash      |
|                            | <u>100,000</u> |                       |

In the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 20X7, the shares will need to be reclassified as a current liability given that they will be repaid within one year.

*Given that these shares are classed as a financial liability, gearing will be higher (as they are treated as debt) than if they were ordinary shares (which would be treated as equity).*

## 10 Hedging

The futures contract was entered into to protect the company from a fall in oil prices and hedge the value of the inventories. It is therefore a fair value hedge.

The inventories are recorded at their cost of \$2,600,000 (100,000 barrels at \$26.00) on 1 July 20X2.

The futures contract has a zero value at the date it is entered into and so no entry is made in the financial statements.

*Tutorial note:* however, the existence of the contract and associated risk would be disclosed from that date in accordance with IFRS 7 (detail outside the scope of the syllabus).

At the year end the inventories must be shown at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Hence they will be shown at \$2,250,000 (100,000 barrels at \$22.50) and a loss of \$350,000 recognised in profit or loss.

However, a gain has been made on the futures contract:

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
|  | \$             |
| The company has a contract to sell on 31 March 20X3 at \$27.50                 | 2,750,000      |
| A contract entered into at the year end would sell at \$23.25 on 31 March 20X3 | 2,325,000      |
| Gain (= the value the contract could be sold on for to a third party)          | <u>425,000</u> |

The gain on the futures contract is also recognised in profit or loss:

|        |                       |           |           |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| DEBIT  | Future contract asset | \$425,000 |           |
| CREDIT | Profit or loss        |           | \$425,000 |

The net effect on profit or loss is a gain of \$75,000 (\$425,000 less \$350,000) whereas without the hedging contract the whole loss of \$350,000 would have been the only impact on profit or loss.

*Note*

If the inventories had gained in value, this gain would also be recognised in profit or loss as hedge accounting is being applied (normally gains on inventories are not recognised until sale). A loss would have occurred on the futures contract, which would also be recognised in profit or loss.

## 11 Sirus

### Marking scheme

|  | Marks     |
|--|-----------|
| (a) Definition of financial liability and equity | 3         |
| Principle in IAS 32                              | 1         |
| Discussion                                       | 2         |
| (b) IAS 19                                       | 1         |
| Financial liability                              | 2         |
| Provision  | 1         |
| Build up over service period                     | 1         |
| Recalculate annually                             | 1         |
| (c) Purchase method                              | 1         |
| Cost of business combinations                    | 1         |
| Future payment                                   | 1         |
| Remuneration versus cost of acquisition          | 2         |
| (d) Not exercised                                | 2         |
| Expected exercise                                | 1         |
| IFRS 9   | 1         |
| Current v non-current                            | 2         |
| Communication in report                          | <u>2</u>  |
| Maximum  | <u>25</u> |

## Report

To: The Directors, Sirius  
From: Accountant  
Date: 15 June 20X8

### *Accounting treatment of items in the financial statements*

#### (a) **Directors' ordinary 'B' shares**

The capital of Sirius must be shown **either as a liability or as equity**. The criteria for distinguishing between financial liabilities and equity are found in IAS 32 *Financial instruments: presentation*. Equity and liabilities must be classified **according to their substance, not just their legal form**. A **financial liability** is defined as any liability that is:

- (i) A contractual obligation:
  - To deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity, or
  - To exchange financial instruments with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavourable; or
- (ii) a contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments.

An **equity instrument** is any contract that evidences a **residual interest** in the assets of an entity after deducting all of its liabilities

The **ordinary 'B' shares**, the capital subscribed by the directors must, according to the directors' service agreements, be returned to any director on leaving the company. There is thus a **contractual obligation** to deliver cash. The redemption is **not discretionary**, and Sirius has no right to avoid it. The mandatory nature of the repayment makes this capital a **liability** (if it were discretionary, it would be equity). On initial recognition, that is when the 'B' shares are purchased, the financial liability must be stated at the **present value of the amount due on redemption**, discounted over the life of the service contract. In subsequent periods, the financial liability may be carried at fair value through profit or loss, or at amortised cost under IFRS 9.

In contrast, the **payment of \$3 million** to holders of 'B' shares, is discretionary in that it must be approved in a general meeting by a majority of all shareholders. This approval may be refused, and so it would not be correct to show the \$3 million as a liability in the statement of financial position at 30 April 20X8. Instead, it should be recognised when approved. The dividend when recognised will be treated as **interest expense**. This is because IAS 32 (para 35-36) requires the treatment of dividends to follow the treatment of the instrument, ie because the instrument is treated as a liability, the dividends are treated as an expense.

#### (b) **Directors' retirement benefits**

These are unfunded defined benefit plans, which are likely to be governed by IAS 19 *Employee benefits*, but IAS 32 and IFRS 9 on financial instruments, and IAS 37 *Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets* also apply.

Sirius has contractual or constructive obligations to make payments to former directors. The treatment and applicable standard depends on the obligation.

- (i) **Fixed annuity with payment to director's estate on death**. This **meets the definition of a financial liability under IAS 32**, because there is a contractual obligation to deliver cash or a financial asset. The firm does not have the option to withhold the payment. The rights to these annuities are earned over the directors' period of service, so it follows that the costs should also be recognised over this service period.
- (ii) **Fixed annuity ceasing on death**  
The timing of the death is clearly uncertain, which means that the annuities have a **contingent element** with a mortality risk to be calculated by an actuary. It meets the definition of an insurance contract, which is outside the scope of IFRS 9, as are employers' obligations under IAS 19. However, insofar as there is a constructive obligation, these annuities fall within the scope of IAS 37, because these are liabilities of uncertain timing or

amount. The amount of the obligation should be measured in a manner similar to a warranty provision: that is the **probability of the future cash outflow** of the present obligation should be measured for the class of all such obligations. An estimate of the costs should include any liability for post retirement payments that directors have earned so far. The liability should **be built up over the service period** and will in practice be calculated on an actuarial basis as under IAS 19 *Employee benefits*. If the effect is material, the liability will be discounted. It should be **re-calculated every year** to take account of directors joining or leaving, or any other changes.

(c) **Acquisition of Marne**

An increased profit share is payable to the directors of Marne if the purchase offer is accepted. The question arises of whether this additional payment constitutes **remuneration or consideration** for the business acquired. Because the payment is for two years only, after which time remuneration falls back to normal levels, the payment should be seen as part of the **purchase consideration**.

The second issue is the treatment of this consideration. IFRS 3 (revised January 2008) *Business combinations* requires that an acquirer must be identified for all business combinations. In this case Sirius is the acquirer. The cost of the combination must be measured as the sum of the fair values, at the date of exchange, of assets given or liabilities assumed in exchange for control.

IFRS 3 recognises that, by entering into an acquisition, the acquirer becomes obliged to make additional payments. Not recognising that obligation means that the consideration recognised at the acquisition date is not fairly stated.

The revised IFRS 3 **requires recognition of contingent consideration, measured at fair value, at the acquisition date**. This is, arguably, consistent with how other forms of consideration are fair valued.

The acquirer may be required to pay contingent consideration in the form of equity or of a debt instrument or cash. In this case, it is in the form of cash, or increased remuneration.

Accordingly, the **cost of the combination must include the full \$11m**, measured at net present value at 1 May 20X7. The payment of \$5 million would be discounted for one year and the payment of \$6 million for two years.

(d) **Repayment of bank loan**

The bank loan is to be repaid in ten years' time, but the terms of the loan state that Sirius can pay it off in seven years. The issue arises as to **whether the early repayment option is likely to be exercised**.

If, when the loan was taken out on 1 May 20X7 the option of **early repayment was not expected to be exercised**, then at 30 April 20X8 the normal terms apply. The loan would be stated at \$2 million in the statement of financial position, and the effective interest would be  $8\% \times \$2 \text{ million} = \$160,000$ , the interest paid.

If at 1 May 20X7 it was expected that the **early repayment option would be exercised**, then the **effective interest rate would be 9.1%**, and the effective interest  $9.1\% \times \$2 \text{ million} = \$182,000$ . The cash paid would still be \$160,000, and the difference of \$22,000 would be added to the carrying amount of the financial liability in the statement of financial position, giving \$2,022,000.

IFRS 9 *Financial instruments* requires that the carrying amount of a financial asset or liability should be adjusted to reflect actual cash flows or revised estimates of cash flows. This means that, even if it was thought at the outset that early repayment would not take place, if **expectations then change, the carrying amount must be revised** to reflect future estimated cash flows using the effective interest rate.

The directors of Sirius are currently in discussion with the bank regarding repayment in the next financial year. However, these discussions do not create a legal obligation to repay the loan in twelve months, and Sirius has an unconditional right to defer settlement for longer than twelve months. Accordingly, **it would not be correct to show the loan as a current liability on the basis of the discussions with the bank**.

I hope that this report is helpful to you.

Signed, Accountant

# 12 Vident

## Marking scheme

|                                | Marks     |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| (a) Discussion                 | 9         |
| (b) Computation and discussion | 9         |
| (c) Computation and discussion | 7         |
| Available/Maximum              | <u>25</u> |

### REPORT

To: Directors of Vident  
Subject: IFRS 2 Share based payment

From:  
Date: 20X5

As requested, this report explains why share based payments should be recognised in the financial statements. It also explains how the directors' share options should be accounted for in the financial statements for the year ended 31 May 20X5.

#### (a) Why share based payments should be recognised in the financial statements

IFRS 2 *Share based payment* applies to **all share option schemes granted after 7 November 2002**. The directors have put forward several arguments for not recognising the expense of remunerating directors in this way.

*Share options have no cost to the company*

When shares are **issued for cash** or in a business acquisition, **an accounting entry is needed to recognise the receipt of cash** (or other resources) as consideration for the issue. Share options (the right to receive shares in future) **are also issued in consideration for resources**: services rendered by directors or employees. These resources are **consumed by the company** and it would be **inconsistent not to recognise an expense**.

*Share issues do not meet the definition of an expense in the IASB Conceptual Framework*

The *Framework* defines an expense as a **decrease in economic benefits** in the form of **outflows of assets** or **incurrences of liabilities**. It is not immediately obvious that employee services meet the definition of an asset and therefore **it can be argued that consumption of those services does not meet the definition of an expense**. However, share options **are issued for consideration in the form of employee services** so that **arguably there is an asset**, although it is **consumed at the same time that it is received**. Therefore the recognition of an expense relating to share based payment is **consistent with the Conceptual Framework**.

*The expense relating to share options is already recognised in the diluted earnings per share calculation*

It can be argued that to recognise an expense in profit or loss **would have the effect of distorting diluted earnings per share** as diluted earnings per share would then **take the expense into account twice**. This is not a valid argument. There are **two events** involved: **issuing the options**; and **consuming the resources** (the directors' services) received as consideration. The diluted earnings per share calculation **only reflects the issue of the options**; there is **no adjustment to basic earnings**. Recognising an expense reflects the consumption of services. There is **no 'double counting'**.

*Accounting for share based payment may discourage the company from introducing new share option plans*

This is quite **possibly true**. Accounting for share based payment **reduces earnings**. However, it **improves the information provided** in the financial statements, as these now make users aware of the **true economic consequences** of issuing share options as remuneration. The economic consequences are the reason why share option schemes may be discontinued. IFRS 2 simply **enables management and shareholders to reach an informed decision** on the best method of remuneration.



(b) **Accounting for share options in the financial statements for the year ended 31 May 20X5**

The basic principle of accounting for share options is that **an expense is recognised** for the **services rendered** by the directors and a **corresponding amount is credited to equity**. The transaction is **measured at the fair value of the options granted at the grant date** and fair value is taken to be the **market price**. Where (as is usual) options vest only after staff have completed a specified period of service, the expense is **allocated to accounting periods over this period of service**.

*Options granted to J. Van Heflin on 1 June 20X3*

The **performance conditions have been met** and the director is **still working for the company** at 31 May 20X5. As the **number of shares** that will vest is **fixed**, the expense is **allocated on a straight line basis to the two years ended 31 May 20X5**.

*Options granted to R. Ashworth on 1 June 20X4*

The **performance conditions** (the increase in the share price to \$13.50) **have not yet been met**. However, such 'market conditions' need not be considered as they are already factored into the fair value of the share options. In terms of the period of service condition, the director is **still working for the company** and **must work for the company for three years** before the options vest, so the **expense is recognised**. Again, the **number of shares is fixed**, so the expense is **allocated on a straight line basis over the three years to 31 May 20X7**. The expense to be recognised is calculated as follows:

|  | <i>At 1 June 20X4</i> | <i>Year ended 31 May 20X5</i> |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
|  | \$                    | \$                            |
| J. Van Heflin ( $20,000 \times \$5 \times \frac{1}{2}$ ) | 50,000                | 50,000                        |
| R. Ashworth ( $50,000 \times \$6 \times \frac{1}{3}$ )   |                       | 100,000                       |
|  | <u>50,000</u>         | <u>150,000</u>                |

At 1 June 20X4 the **opening balance of retained earnings is reduced by \$50,000** and a **separate component of equity is increased by \$50,000**.

An **expense of \$150,000 is recognised** in profit or loss for the year ended 31 May 20X5. **Equity** (the same separate component as before) is **credited with \$150,000**.

(c) **Deferred tax implications of the recognition of an expense for directors' share options**

The company will **recognise an expense** for the consumption of employee services given in consideration for share options granted, **but will not receive a tax deduction until the share options are actually exercised**. Therefore a **temporary difference arises** and IAS 12 *Income taxes* requires the recognition of deferred tax.

A **deferred tax asset** (a deductible temporary difference) results from the **difference** between the **tax base of the services received** (a tax deduction in future periods) and the **carrying value of zero**. IAS 12 requires the **measurement** of the deductible temporary difference to be based on the **intrinsic value of the options at the year end**. This is the **difference** between the **fair value of the share** and the **exercise price of the option**.

If the amount of the **estimated future tax deduction exceeds the amount of the related cumulative remuneration expense**, the tax deduction relates not only to the remuneration expense, but to equity. If this is the case, the **excess should be recognised directly in equity**.

*At 1 June 20X4*

Deferred tax asset:

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
|  | \$              |
| Fair value ( $20,000 \times \$12.50 \times \frac{1}{2}$ )              | 125,000         |
| Exercise price of option ( $20,000 \times \$4.50 \times \frac{1}{2}$ ) | <u>(45,000)</u> |
| Intrinsic value (estimated tax deduction)                              | <u>80,000</u>   |
| Tax at 30%   | <u>24,000</u>   |

The cumulative remuneration expense is \$50,000, which is less than the estimated tax deduction. Therefore:

- A deferred tax asset of \$24,000 is recognised in the opening statement of financial position.
- Opening retained earnings are increased by \$15,000 ( $50,000 \times 30\%$ ).
- The excess of \$9,000 ( $30,000 \times 30\%$ ) goes to equity.

The comparative is re-stated for the options granted on 1 June 20X3.

*Year to 31 May 20X5*

Deferred tax asset:

|   | \$              |
|---|-----------------|
| Fair value:                               |                 |
| ( $20,000 \times \$12$ )                  | 240,000         |
| ( $50,000 \times \$12 \times 1/3$ )       | 200,000         |
|   | <u>440,000</u>  |
| Exercise price of options                 |                 |
| ( $20,000 \times \$4.50$ )                | (90,000)        |
| ( $50,000 \times \$6 \times 1/3$ )        | (100,000)       |
| Intrinsic value (estimated tax deduction) | <u>250,000</u>  |
| Tax at 30%                                | 75,000          |
| Less previously recognised                | <u>(24,000)</u> |
|   | <u>51,000</u>   |

The cumulative remuneration expense is \$200,000, which is less than the estimated tax deduction. Therefore:

- A deferred tax asset of \$75,000 is recognised in the statement of financial position at 31 May 20X5.
- There is potential deferred tax income of \$51,000 for the year ended 31 May 20X5.
- Of this, \$6,000 ( $50,000 \times 30\% - 9,000$ ) goes directly to equity.
- The remainder (\$45,000) is recognised in profit or loss for the year.

I hope that the above explanations and advice are helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further assistance.

## 13 Clean

### (a) Why there was a need for an accounting standard dealing with provisions

IAS 37 *Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets* was issued to prevent entities from using provisions for creative accounting. It was common for entities to recognise material provisions for items such as future losses, restructuring costs or even expected future expenditure on repairs and maintenance of assets. These could be combined in one large provision (sometimes known as the 'big bath'). Although these provisions reduced profits in the period in which they were recognised (and were often separately disclosed on grounds of materiality), they were then released to enhance profits in subsequent periods. To make matters worse, provisions were often recognised where there was no firm commitment to incur expenditure. For example, an entity might set up a provision for restructuring costs and then withdraw from the plan, leaving the provision available for profit smoothing.

#### The criteria that need to be satisfied before a provision is recognised

IAS 37 states that a provision should not be recognised unless:

- An entity has a present obligation to transfer economic benefits as a result of a past transaction or event; and
- It is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; and
- A reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

An obligation can be legal or constructive. An entity has a constructive obligation if:

- It has indicated to other parties that it will accept certain responsibilities (by an established pattern of past practice or published policies); and
- As a result, it has created a valid expectation on the part of those other parties that it will discharge those responsibilities.

- (b) Two of the three conditions in IAS 37 are very clearly met. Clean will **incur expenditure** (transfer of economic benefits is virtually certain) and the directors have prepared **detailed estimates** of the amount.

Although Clean is not legally obliged to carry out the project, it appears that it has a **constructive obligation** to do so. IAS 37 states that an entity has a constructive obligation if both of the following apply.

- It has **indicated to other parties** that it will accept certain responsibilities (by an **established pattern** of past practice or published policies).
- As a result, it has created a **valid expectation** on the part of those other parties that it will discharge those responsibilities.

Clean has a reputation of fulfilling its financial commitments once they have been publicly announced. Therefore the obligating event is the announcement of the proposal on 25 June 20X0, the obligation exists at 30 June 20X0 (the year end) and Clean is **required to recognise a provision**.

- (c) **Provision at 30 June 20X0:**

\$'000

Expenditure on:

|              |                       |               |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 30 June 20X1 | $30,000 \times 0.926$ | 27,780        |
| 30 June 20X2 | $30,000 \times 0.857$ | 25,710        |
| 30 June 20X3 | $40,000 \times 0.794$ | 31,760        |
|              |                       | <u>85,250</u> |

Provision at 30 June 20X1:

\$'000

Expenditure on:

|              |                       |               |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 30 June 20X2 | $30,000 \times 0.926$ | 27,780        |
| 30 June 20X3 | $40,000 \times 0.857$ | 34,280        |
|              |                       | <u>62,060</u> |

- (d) The charge to profit or loss for the year ended 30 June 20X1 consists of:

- (i) Depreciation ( $85,250,000 \div 20$ ) \$ 4,262,500

This is reported in cost of sales.

The provision of \$85,250,000 also represents an **asset** as it gives rise to future economic benefits (it enhances the performance of the factories). This is **capitalised and depreciated over 20 years** (the average useful life of the factories).

- (ii) Unwinding of the discount (see working) \$ 6,810,000

This is reported as a **finance cost**.

*Working*

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
|  | \$'000        |
| Provision at 1 July 20X0                 | 85,250        |
| Expenditure on 30 June 20X1              | (30,000)      |
| Unwinding of discount (balancing figure) | 6,810         |
| Provision at 30 June 20X1                | <u>62,060</u> |

Alternative calculation

|                                | \$'000       |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Expenditure on:                |              |
| 30 June 20X1 (30,000 – 27,780) | 2,220        |
| 30 June 20X2 (27,780 – 25,710) | 2,070        |
| 30 June 20X3 (34,280 – 31,760) | 2,520        |
|                                | <u>6,810</u> |

## 14 Ace

### Year ended 31 March 20X2

#### Relationship

Ace Co has a 75% subsidiary (Deuce Co) and an 80% subsidiary (Trey Co).

Ace is a related party of Deuce and Trey and *vice versa*.

Deuce and Trey are also related parties because they are subject to 'common control'. Any transactions between Ace, Deuce and Trey need not be disclosed in Ace's *consolidated* accounts as they are eliminated.

#### Disclosures

##### *Ace Co*

- Intragroup sale of machine for \$25,000 at profit of \$5,000. No balances outstanding.
- Management services provided to Deuce (nil charge) and Trey (nil charge)

No disclosure is required in the group accounts of Ace of these items as they are eliminated.

##### *Deuce*

- Parent (and ultimate controlling party) is Ace Co
- Machine purchased from parent \$25,000 (original cost \$20,000) and depreciation charge \$5,000. No amounts outstanding at year end.
- Purchase of management services from Ace (nil charge)

##### *Trey*

- Parent (and ultimate controlling party) is Ace Co
- Purchase of management services from Ace (nil charge)

For all transactions the nature of the related party relationship (ie parent, subsidiary, fellow subsidiary) should be disclosed.

### Year ended 31 March 20X3

#### Relationship

Ace Co has a 100% subsidiary (Deuce Co) and an 80% subsidiary (Trey Co).

Ace is a related party of Deuce and Trey and *vice versa*. Deuce and Trey are related because they remain under common control. Any transactions between Ace, Deuce and Trey need not be disclosed in Ace's *consolidated* accounts as they are eliminated.

#### Disclosures

##### *Ace Co*

- Management services provided to Deuce (nil charge) and Trey (\$10,000 outstanding)

No disclosure is required in the group accounts of Ace of these items as they are eliminated.

##### *Deuce*

- Parent (and ultimate controlling party) is Ace Co

Disclosures of intragroup transactions is still required even though Deuce is a wholly-owned subsidiary:

- Sale of inventories to Trey for \$15,000 (original cost \$12,000) all sold on, no amounts outstanding at year end
- Purchase of management services from Ace (nil charge)

*Trey*

- Parent (and ultimate controlling party) is Ace Co
- Purchase of inventories from Deuce \$15,000 (original cost \$12,000) all sold, no amounts outstanding at year end
- Purchase of management services from Ace costing \$10,000. All outstanding at year end

For all transactions the nature of the related party relationship (ie parent, subsidiary, fellow subsidiary) should be disclosed.

## 15 Able

- (a) (i) IAS 17 *Leases* differentiates between operating and finance leases.

### **A finance lease:**

- (1) Substantially transfers all of the risks and rewards incident to ownership of an asset to a lessee.
- (2) Should be capitalised in the accounts at the fair value of the leased asset or, if lower, the present value of minimum lease payments over the lease term using the interest rate implicit in the lease (otherwise the lessee's marginal borrowing rate may be used). Any residual payments guaranteed by the lessee should also be included.
- (3) The capitalised asset is depreciated over the shorter of the lease term or useful life.
- (4) Interest and principal components of each payment must be identified and allocated to accounting periods, thus reducing the lease liability.
- (5) Finance charges are calculated as the difference between the total of the minimum lease payments and value of the liability to the lessor. Finance charges are applied to produce a constant periodic rate of charge on the liability in profit or loss.

### **An operating lease:**

- (1) Is any lease which is not a finance lease.
- (2) Lease rentals are charged to profit or loss on a systematic basis which represents the pattern of the benefits derived by the users from the leased asset.

- (ii) **Current standards do not adequately deal with leases. The problems are as follows.**

- (1) The rights and obligations under operating leases are not recognised in the lessee's accounts. IAS 17 takes the view that if risks and rewards of ownership are *not* substantially transferred to a lessee then the lease is classified as an operating lease.
- (2) The issue lies with the definition of 'substantial', which has been judged against quantitative not qualitative factors. If a lease is non-cancellable and the present value of the minimum lease payments is greater than or substantially equal to the asset's fair value or the lease term covers the major part of the asset's life, then the lease is usually treated as a finance lease.
- (3) 'Substantially equal' has been taken to be in excess of 90% of the fair value of the leased asset and the figure of 75% of the life has typically been used, but these terms are not defined in IAS 17.
- (4) However, many leases have been designed which are in *substance* finance leases but, when judged in quantitative terms, are classified as operating leases.
- (5) Factors such as relative responsibilities of lessor/lessee for maintenance, insurance and bearing losses have also blurred the distinction and classification of leases.

- (6) Long term finance leases have often been packaged as operating leases in order to represent a source of 'off balance sheet finance'.
- (7) Specific measures used to enable classification as operating leases include:
- Contingent rentals which are excluded from the calculation of minimum lease payments
  - Making the implicit interest rate impossible to calculate, so the lessee uses an estimated rate which could reduce the present value of minimum lease payments
  - For leases of land and buildings, it is expected that the risks and rewards of ownership of land cannot pass without legal transfer of ownership. Companies may allocate as much as possible to the land element, thus ensuring the buildings element is also treated as an operating lease by reducing the present value of the minimum lease payments.

(b) (i) **Electrical distribution system**

Where a lessee enters a sale and leaseback transaction resulting in an operating lease, then the original asset should be treated as sold. If the transaction is at fair value then immediate recognition of the profit/loss should occur.

If the transaction is above fair value, then the profit based on fair value of \$65m should be recognised. The balance in excess of fair value of \$100m (198 – 98) should be deferred and amortised over the period for which the asset is expected to be used (10 years) ie \$10m pa.

If the sales value is not at fair value, the operating lease rentals of \$24m are likely to have been adjusted for the excess price paid. For Able the sales value is more than twice the fair value and the use of the *Conceptual Framework* and standards dictate the substance of a transaction is essentially one of sale and a loan back equal to the deferred income element. The entity may have shown the excess over fair value as a loan and part of the costs of the operating lease will essentially be repayment of capital and interest (\$12m pa).

(ii) **Sale and leaseback of plant**

This appears to create a finance lease because the lease term is for the major part of the asset's remaining economic life and the present value of the minimum lease payments is substantially equal to the fair value ( $\$43.5 + (\$43.5 \times 2.49) = \$151.82\text{m}$ , compared to fair value \$152m). The lease also contains a bargain purchase option. Able seems to enjoy all the risks and rewards of ownership.

Under IAS 17, where a sale and leaseback transaction results in a finance lease, any excess of sale proceeds over the carrying amount should be deferred and recognised over the lease term. Therefore the excess proceeds over \$100m (\$52m) will be amortised over four years at \$13m pa. The asset and the lease obligation are recorded at the sale value of \$152m. Depreciation is charged on the new asset value and if the revaluation reserve is transferred to revenue reserves, this will also occur over the four year lease term.

## 16 Highland

### HIGHLAND GROUP

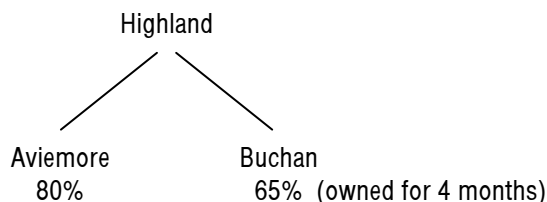
#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 20X8

|  |         |
|--|---------|
|  | \$'000  |
| Revenue $(5,000 + 3,000 + (2,910 \times \frac{4}{12}))$  | 8,970   |
| Cost of sales $(3,000 + 2,300 + (2,820 \times \frac{4}{12}))$  | (6,240) |
| Gross profit   | 2,730   |
| Administrative expenses $(1,000 + 500 + (150 \times \frac{4}{12}) + (W4) 63.5 + (W5) 5 - (W6) 85 + (W8) 65)$ | (1,599) |
| Finance income* $(230 + (W3) 35 - (W6) 85 - (W6) 40)$  | 140     |
| Finance costs $(50 + (210 \times \frac{4}{12}) - (W3) 70)$   | (50)    |
| Profit before tax  | 1,221   |
| Income tax expense $(300 + 50)$  | (350)   |
| PROFIT FOR THE YEAR  | 871     |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax $(130 + 40 + (120 \times \frac{4}{12}))$                              | 210     |
| TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR  | 1,081   |
| Profit attributable to:  |         |
| Owners of the parent $(871 + 26)$  | 897     |
| Non-controlling interests (W2)   | (26)    |
|  | 871     |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to:  |         |
| Owners of the parent $(1,081 + 4)$   | 1,085   |
| Non-controlling interests (W2)   | (4)     |
|  | 1,081   |

\* Other income becomes finance income as only interest income from Buchan remains

#### Workings

##### 1 Group structure

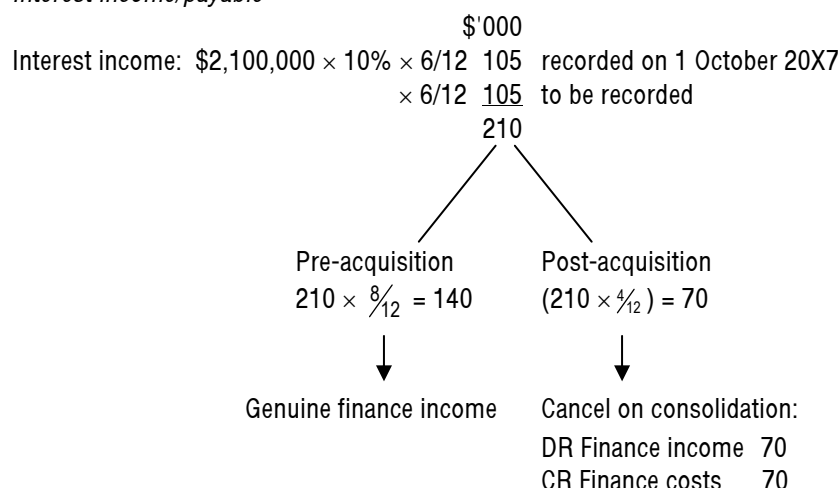


##### 2 Non-controlling interests

|  | \$'000<br>Aviemore | \$'000<br>Buchan | \$'000<br>Aviemore | \$'000<br>Buchan |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Profit/(loss) for the year $(B: 270 \text{ loss} \times \frac{4}{12})$ | 100                | (90)             |                    |                  |
| Total comp income for the year   |                    |                  |                    |                  |
| $(B: 150 \text{ loss} \times \frac{4}{12})$                            |                    |                  | 140                | (50)             |
| Unrealised profit on disposal (W4)                                     | (63.5)             |                  | (63.5)             |                  |
| FV depreciation (W5)   |                    | (5)              |                    | (5)              |
|  | 36.5               | (95)             | 76.5               | (55)             |
| NCI share (20%/35%/20%/35%)  | 7.3 DR             | (33.3) CR        | 15.3 DR            | (19.3) CR        |
|  | (26.0) CR          |                  | (4.0) CR           |                  |

Hence, rounding to nearest \$'000, NCI increases profit/total comprehensive income attributable to owners of the parent.

3 *Interest income/payable*



Overall adjustment to interest income:

|   | \$'000    |
|---|-----------|
| Interest income from Buchan not yet recorded ( $210 \times 6/12$ )      | 105       |
| Less: post acquisition intragroup element ( $210 \times \frac{4}{12}$ ) | (70)      |
|   | <u>35</u> |

4 *Unrealised profit on disposal of freehold property*

|           |   | \$'000 | \$'000      |
|-----------|---|--------|-------------|
| Land      | Proceeds                                      | 300    |             |
|           | Net book value                                | (100)  |             |
|           | Profit on disposal (in Aviemore)              |        | 200         |
| Buildings | Proceeds (800 – 300)                          | 500    |             |
|           | Net book value ( $800 \times \frac{40}{50}$ ) | (640)  |             |
|           | Loss on disposal (in Aviemore)                |        | (140)       |
|           | Proportion of loss depreciated (1/40)         |        | <u>3.5</u>  |
|           |   |        | <u>63.5</u> |

5 *Fair value depreciation*

|   | At acquisition | Additional depreciation* | At year end |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|-------------|
|   | \$'000         | \$'000                   | \$'000      |
| Property, plant and equipment (500 – 350) | 150            | (5)                      | 145         |
|   | <u>150</u>     | <u>(5)</u>               | <u>145</u>  |

\* Additional depreciation =  $\frac{150}{10} = 15$  per annum  $\times \frac{4}{12} = \$5,000$

6 *Intragroup cancellations*

Cancel management services:

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| DEBIT Other income             | \$85,000 |
| CREDIT Administrative expenses | \$85,000 |

Cancel dividend income from Aviemore:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| DEBIT Other income ( $50 \times 80\%$ ) | \$40,000 |
| CREDIT Aviemore's retained earnings     | \$40,000 |



|   |   |                 |              |                 |               |
|---|---|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 7 | <b>Goodwill</b>                               |                 |              |                 |               |
|   |   | <i>Aviemore</i> |              | <i>Buchan</i>   |               |
|   |   | \$'000          | \$'000       | \$'000          | \$'000        |
|   | Consideration transferred                     |                 | 5,000        |                 | 2,600         |
|   | Non-controlling interests                     | (4,000 × 80%)   | 800          | (3,500 × 35%)   | 1,225         |
|   | FV net assets at acq'n:                       |                 |              |                 |               |
|   | Net book value per Q                          | 4,000           |              | 3,350           |               |
|   | Fair value adjustment (W5)                    | -               |              | 150             |               |
|   |   |                 | (4,000)      |                 | (3,500)       |
|   |   |                 | <u>1,800</u> |                 | <u>325</u>    |
| 8 | <b>Impairment losses</b>                      |                 |              | <i>Aviemore</i> | <i>Buchan</i> |
|   |   |                 |              | \$'000          | \$'000        |
|   | Goodwill (W7)                                 |                 |              | 1,800           | 325           |
|   | 'Notional' goodwill (× 100%/80%) (× 100%/65%) |                 |              | 2,250           | 500           |
|   | Net assets at 31 March 20X7                   |                 |              | <u>4,450</u>    | <u>3,300</u>  |
|   |   |                 |              | 6,700           | 3,800         |
|   | Recoverable amount                            |                 |              | <u>7,040</u>    | <u>3,700</u>  |
|   | Impairment loss                               |                 |              | <u>0</u>        | <u>100</u>    |
|   | Allocated to:                                 |                 |              |                 |               |
|   | 'Notional' goodwill                           |                 |              | -               | 100           |
|   | Other assets                                  |                 |              | <u>-</u>        | <u>-</u>      |
|   |   |                 |              | <u>0</u>        | <u>100</u>    |
|   | Recognised impairment loss:                   |                 |              |                 |               |
|   | Recognised goodwill (100 × 65%)               |                 |              | -               | 65            |
|   | Other assets (100%)                           |                 |              | -               | -             |

## 17 Armoury

BAYONET GROUP

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 20X9

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
|  | \$'000        |
| <i>Non-current assets</i>                                |               |
| Property, plant and equipment (14,500 + 12,140 + 17,500) | 44,140        |
| Goodwill (W2)  | <u>3,580</u>  |
|  | <u>47,720</u> |
| <i>Current assets</i>                                    |               |
| Inventories (6,300 + 2,100 + 450)                        | 8,850         |
| Trade receivables (4,900 + 2,000 + 2,320)                | 9,220         |
| Cash (500 + 1,440 + 515)                                 | <u>2,455</u>  |
|  | <u>20,525</u> |
|  | <u>68,245</u> |
| <i>Equity attributable to owners of the parent</i>       |               |
| Share capital – 50c ordinary shares                      | 5,000         |
| Retained earnings (W3)                                   | <u>40,680</u> |
|  | <u>45,680</u> |
| <i>Non-controlling interests (W4)</i>                    | <u>12,600</u> |
|  | <u>58,280</u> |
| <i>Current liabilities (5,700 + 2,280 + 1,985)</i>       | <u>9,965</u>  |
|  | <u>68,245</u> |

## Workings

### 1 Group structure

|          |   |   |
|----------|---|---|
|          | B |   |
| 1.1.X5   | ↓ | $\frac{6,000}{8,000} = 75\%$ ∴ NCI: 25% |
|          | R |   |
| 31.12.X2 | ↓ | $\frac{4,000}{5,000} = 80\%$            |
|          | P |   |
|          |   | Effective interest in P (75% × 80%) 60% |
|          |   | ∴ NCI 40%                               |
|          |   | <u>100%</u>                             |

### 2 Goodwill

|  | Rifle        |              | Pistol        |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|  | \$'000       | \$'000       | \$'000        | \$'000       |
| Consideration transferred                        |              | 10,000       | (9,000 × 75%) | 6,750        |
| Non-controlling interests (at 'full' fair value) |              | 3,230        |               | 4,600        |
| Fair value of identifiable net assets at acq'n:  |              |              |               |              |
| Share capital                                    | 4,000        |              | 2,500         |              |
| Pre-acquisition retained earnings                | <u>8,000</u> |              | <u>6,500</u>  |              |
|  |              | (12,000)     |               | (9,000)      |
|  |              | <u>1,230</u> |               | <u>2,350</u> |
|  |              | <u>3,580</u> |               |              |

### 3 Retained earnings

|   | Bayonet       | Rifle          | Pistol         |
|---|---------------|----------------|----------------|
|   | \$'000        | \$'000         | \$'000         |
| Per question                                    | 25,500        | 20,400         | 16,300         |
| Retained earnings at acquisition                |               | <u>(8,000)</u> | <u>(6,500)</u> |
|   |               | 12,400         | 9,800          |
| Group share of post acquisition ret'd earnings: |               |                |                |
| Rifle (12,400 × 75%)                            | 9,300         |                |                |
| Pistol (9,800 × 60%)                            | <u>5,880</u>  |                |                |
|   | <u>40,680</u> |                |                |

### 4 Non-controlling interests

|   | Rifle          | Pistol       |
|---|----------------|--------------|
|   | \$'000         | \$'000       |
| NCI at acquisition (W2)                               | 3,230          | 4,600        |
| NCI share of post acquisition ret'd earnings:         |                |              |
| Rifle ((W3) 12,400 × 25%)                             | 3,100          |              |
| Pistol ((W3) 9,800 × 40%)                             |                | 3,920        |
| Less: NCI share of investment in Pistol (9,000 × 25%) | <u>(2,250)</u> |              |
|   | <u>4,080</u>   | <u>8,520</u> |
|   | <u>12,600</u>  |              |

# 18 Murder, Mystery and Suspense

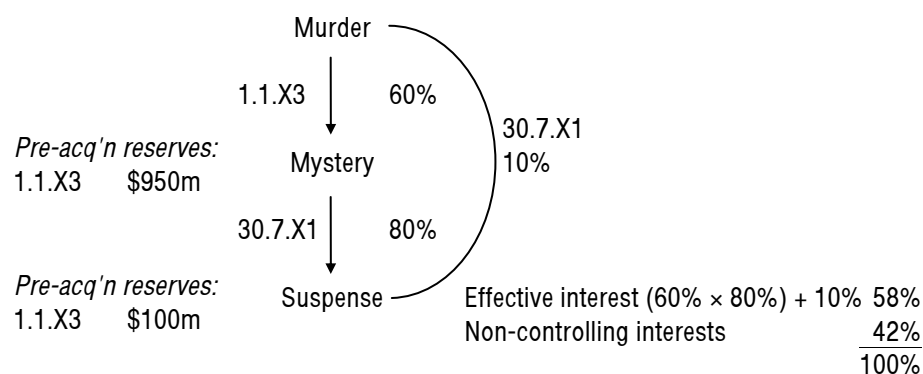
## MURDER GROUP

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 20X7

|   | \$'m         |
|---|--------------|
| <i>Non-current assets</i>                           |              |
| Property, plant and equipment (2,458 + 1,410 + 870) | 4,738        |
| Goodwill (W2)                                       | 320          |
|   | <u>5,058</u> |
| <i>Current assets</i>                               |              |
| Inventories (450 + 200 + 260 – (W5) 52)             | 858          |
| Trade receivables (610 + 365 + 139)                 | 1,114        |
| Cash (240 + 95 + 116)                               | 451          |
|   | <u>2,423</u> |
|   | <u>7,481</u> |
| <i>Equity attributable to owners of the parent</i>  |              |
| Ordinary share capital                              | 500          |
| Share premium                                       | 250          |
| Retained earnings (W3)                              | 3,605        |
|   | <u>4,355</u> |
| <i>Non-controlling interests (W4)</i>               | <u>1,193</u> |
|   | <u>5,548</u> |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>                          |              |
| Trade payables (1,130 + 418 + 385)                  | 1,933        |
|   | <u>7,481</u> |

## Workings

### 1 Group structure



### 2 Goodwill (including step acquisition of Suspense)

|   | Murder in Mystery |            | Murder in Suspense |       |
|---|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-------|
|   | \$'m              | \$'m       | \$'m               | \$'m  |
| Consideration transferred                       |                   | 900        | (240 × 60%)        | 144   |
| Fair value of non-controlling interests         |                   | 536        |                    | 210   |
| Fair value of 10% equity interest in Suspense   |                   |            |                    | 50    |
| Fair value of identifiable net assets at acq'n: |                   |            |                    |       |
| Share capital                                   | 200               |            | 100                |       |
| Share premium                                   | 120               |            | 50                 |       |
| Pre-acquisition retained earnings (1.1.X3)      | <u>950</u>        |            | <u>100</u>         |       |
|   |                   | (1,270)    |                    | (250) |
|   |                   | 166        |                    | 154   |
|   |                   | <u>320</u> |                    |       |

|   |   |               |                |                 |
|---|---|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 3 | <i>Retained earnings</i>                              | <i>Murder</i> | <i>Mystery</i> | <i>Suspense</i> |
|   |   | \$'m          | \$'m           | \$'m            |
|   | Per question  | 2,805         | 1,572          | 850             |
|   | P/L gain on investment in Suspense (50 – 27)          | 23            |                |                 |
|   | Less: unrealised profit (W5)                          |               | (52)           |                 |
|   | Retained earnings at acq'n (W2)                       |               | (950)          | (100)           |
|   |   |               | <u>570</u>     | <u>750</u>      |
|   | Group share of post acq'n ret'd earnings:             |               |                |                 |
|   | Mystery (570 × 60%)                                   | 342           |                |                 |
|   | Suspense (750 × 58%)                                  | 435           |                |                 |
|   | Group share of impairment losses to date              | <u>(0)</u>    |                |                 |
|   |   | <u>3,605</u>  |                |                 |
| 4 | <i>Non-controlling interests</i>                      |               | <i>Mystery</i> | <i>Suspense</i> |
|   |   |               | \$'m           | \$'m            |
|   | NCI at acquisition (W2)                               |               | 536            | 210             |
|   | NCI share of post acq'n ret'd earnings:               |               |                |                 |
|   | Mystery (570 × 40%)                                   |               | 228            |                 |
|   | Suspense (750 × 42%)                                  |               |                | 315             |
|   | Less: NCI share of investment in Suspense (240 × 40%) |               | (96)           |                 |
|   |   |               | <u>668</u>     | <u>525</u>      |
|   |   |               | <u>1,193</u>   |                 |
| 5 | <i>Unrealised profit on inventories</i>               |               |                |                 |
|   | Mark-up = \$260m × $\frac{25}{125}$ = \$52m           |               |                |                 |

## 19 Holmes & Deakin

- (a) HOLMES  
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 20X3

|  |            |
|--|------------|
|  | \$'000     |
| Profit before gain on disposal of shares in subsidiary | 130        |
| Gain on disposal of shares in subsidiary (W5)          | 100        |
| <i>Profit before tax</i>                               | 230        |
| Income tax expense (40 + (W5) 30)                      | (70)       |
| <b>PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>                             | <b>160</b> |
| <i>Other comprehensive income, net of tax</i>          | 20         |
| <b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>         | <b>180</b> |
| <i>Statement of changes in equity (Total)</i>          | \$m        |
| Balance at 1 June 20X2 (810 – 110)                     | 700        |
| Total comprehensive income for the year                | 180        |
| Balance at 31 May 20X3                                 | <u>880</u> |

(b) HOLMES GROUP  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 20X3

|   | \$m        |
|---|------------|
| <i>Profit before tax</i> (130 + 60)   | 190        |
| Income tax expense (40 + 20)  | (60)       |
| <b>PROFIT/ FOR THE YEAR</b>   | <b>130</b> |
| <i>Other comprehensive income, net of tax</i> (20 + 10)   | 30         |
| <b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>  | <b>160</b> |
| Profit attributable to:   |            |
| Owners of the parent  | 122        |
| Non-controlling interests $[(40 \times \frac{9}{12} \times 15\%) + (40 \times \frac{3}{12} \times 35\%)]$ | 8          |
|   | <b>130</b> |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to:   |            |
| Owners of the parent  | 150        |
| Non-controlling interests $[(50 \times \frac{9}{12} \times 15\%) + (50 \times \frac{3}{12} \times 35\%)]$ | 10         |
|   | <b>160</b> |

(c) HOLMES GROUP  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MAY 20X3

|  | \$m            |
|--|----------------|
| <i>Non-current assets</i>                          |                |
| Property, plant and equipment (535 + 178)          | 713            |
| Goodwill (W2)                                      | 80             |
|  | <b>793</b>     |
| <i>Current assets</i>                              |                |
| Inventories (320 + 190)                            | 510            |
| Trade receivables (250 + 175)                      | 425            |
| Cash (80 + 89)                                     | 169            |
|  | <b>1,104</b>   |
|  | <b>1,897</b>   |
| <i>Equity attributable to owners of the parent</i> |                |
| Share capital \$1 ordinary shares                  | 500            |
| Reserves (W3)                                      | 477.5          |
|  | <b>977.5</b>   |
| <i>Non-controlling interests (W4)</i>              | <b>157.5</b>   |
|  | <b>1,135.0</b> |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>                         |                |
| Trade payables (295 + 171)                         | 466            |
| Income tax payable (80 + 60 + (W5) 30)             | 170            |
| Provisions (95 + 31)                               | 126            |
|  | <b>762</b>     |
|  | <b>1,897</b>   |

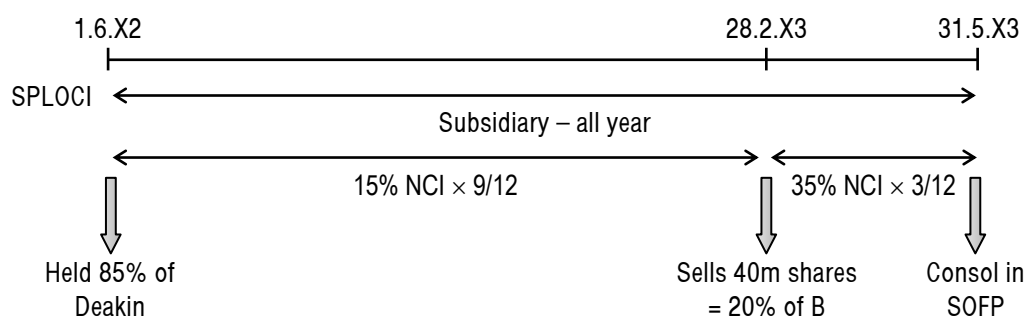
(d) STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY (TOTAL COLUMN)

|   | Group<br>\$m | NCI<br>\$m   | Total<br>\$m   |
|---|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Balance at 1 June 20X2 $(500 + (W7) 285) / (45 + ((W7) 100 \times 15\%))$                     | 785          | 60           | 845            |
| Adjustment to parent's equity on sale of non-controlling interests<br>$((W6) 72.5 - (W5) 30)$ | 42.5         |              | 42.5           |
| Increase in non-controlling interests $((W6) 71.5 + 16)$                                      |              | 87.5         | 87.5           |
| Total comprehensive income for the year   | 150          | 10           | 160.0          |
| Balance at 31 May 20X3 (from SOFP)  | <u>977.5</u> | <u>157.5</u> | <u>1,135.0</u> |

Shown for clarity  
(not required)

Workings

1 Timeline



Retain control (65%)  
 $\therefore$  adjust parent's equity

2 Goodwill

|   | \$m       | \$m          |
|---|-----------|--------------|
| Consideration transferred                             |           | 255          |
| Non-controlling interests (at fair value)             |           | 45           |
| Fair value of identifiable net assets at acquisition: |           |              |
| Share capital   | 200       |              |
| Pre-acquisition reserves                              | <u>20</u> |              |
|   |           | <u>(220)</u> |
|   |           | <u>80</u>    |

3 Group reserves at 31 May 20X3

|   | Holmes<br>\$m | Deakin<br>85%<br>\$m | Deakin<br>65% ret'd<br>\$m |
|---|---------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Per question/at date of disposal $(170 - (50 \times \frac{3}{12}))$ | 310           | 157.5                | 170                        |
| Adjustment to parent's equity on disposal (W6)                      | 72.5          |                      |                            |
| Tax on parent's gain (W5)   | (30)*         |                      |                            |
| Reserves at acquisition (W2)/date of disposal (as above)            |               | <u>(20)</u>          | <u>(157.5)</u>             |
|   |               | 137.5                | 12.5                       |
| Group share of post acquisition reserves:                           |               |                      |                            |
| Deakin – 85% $(137.5 \times 85\%)$                                  | 116.9         |                      |                            |
| Deakin – 65% $(12.5 \times 65\%)$                                   | <u>8.1</u>    |                      |                            |
|   | <u>477.5</u>  |                      |                            |

\* Tax recognised directly in reserves in the consolidated financial statements as the item it relates to is recognised in reserves (matching concept and IAS 12 para 61A(b)).

|   |  |            |               |
|---|--|------------|---------------|
| 4 | <i>Non-controlling interests (SOF)</i>   |            |               |
|   |  |            | \$m           |
|   | NCI at acquisition (W2)  |            | 45            |
|   | NCI share of post acquisition reserves:  |            |               |
|   | Deakin ( $137.5 \times 15\%$ )   |            | <u>20.6</u>   |
|   |  |            | 65.6          |
|   | Deakin ( $12.5 \times 35\%$ )  |            | 4.4           |
|   | Increase in NCI (W6)   |            | <u>87.5</u>   |
|   |  |            | <u>157.5</u>  |
| 5 | <i>Gain on disposal of shares in parent's separate financial statements</i>              |            |               |
|   |  |            | \$m           |
|   | Fair value of consideration received   |            | 160           |
|   | Less original cost of shares ( $255 \times 20\%/85\%$ )                                  |            | <u>(60)</u>   |
|   | Parent gain  |            | 100           |
|   | Less tax on parent's gain (30%)  |            | <u>(30)</u>   |
|   |  |            | <u>70</u>     |
| 6 | <i>Adjustment to parent's equity on disposal of shares in group financial statements</i> |            |               |
|   |  |            | \$m           |
|   | Fair value of consideration received   |            | 160.0         |
|   | Increase in NCI in net assets and goodwill at disposal ((W4) $65.6 \times 20\%/15\%$ )   |            | <u>(87.5)</u> |
|   |  |            | <u>72.5</u>   |
|   | <i>OR (as a double entry):</i>   |            |               |
|   |  | \$m        | \$m           |
|   | DEBIT Cash   | 160        |               |
|   | CREDIT Non-controlling interests ((W4) $65.6 \times 20\%/15\%$ )                         |            | 87.5          |
|   | CREDIT Parent's equity (balancing figure)  |            | 72.5          |
| 7 | <i>Reserves brought forward</i>  |            |               |
|   |  | Holmes     | Deakin        |
|   |  | \$m        | \$m           |
|   | Per question (31.5.X3)   | 310        | 170           |
|   | Less: comprehensive income for the year  | (110)      | (50)          |
|   | Reserves at acquisition  |            | <u>(20)</u>   |
|   |  |            | 100           |
|   | Group share of post acquisition reserves:  |            |               |
|   | Deakin ( $100 \times 85\%$ )   | <u>85</u>  |               |
|   |  | <u>285</u> |               |

## 20 Harvard

- (a) HARVARD GROUP  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 DECEMBER 20X5

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
|  | \$'000          |
| <i>Non-current assets</i>                          |                 |
| Property, plant and equipment (2,870 + (W2) 1,350) | 4,220.0         |
| Goodwill (W4)                                      | 183.3           |
|  | <u>4,403.3</u>  |
| <i>Current assets</i>                              |                 |
| Inventories (1,990 + (W2) 2,310)                   | 4,300.0         |
| Trade receivables (1,630 + (W2) 1,270)             | 2,900.0         |
| Cash at bank and in hand (240 + (W2) 560)          | 800.0           |
|  | <u>8,000.0</u>  |
|  | <u>12,403.3</u> |
| <i>Equity attributable to owners of the parent</i> |                 |
| Share capital (\$1)                                | 118.0           |
| Retained reserves (W5)                             | 3,017.0         |
|  | <u>3,135.0</u>  |
| <i>Non-controlling interests (W6)</i>              | <u>1,108.3</u>  |
|  | <u>4,243.3</u>  |
| <i>Non-current liabilities</i>                     |                 |
| Loans  | 1,920           |
| <i>Current liabilities</i>                         |                 |
| Trade payables (5,030 + (W2) 1,210)                | 6,240           |
|  | <u>12,403.3</u> |

- (b) CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X5

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
|  | \$'000          |
| <i>Revenue</i> (40,425 + (W3) 25,900)                                | 66,325          |
| <i>Cost of sales</i> (35,500 + (W3) 20,680)                          | <u>(56,180)</u> |
| Gross profit   | 10,145          |
| <i>Distribution and administrative expenses</i> (4,400 + (W3) 1,560) | <u>(5,960)</u>  |
| <i>Profit before tax</i>   | 4,185           |
| <i>Income tax expense</i> (300 + (W3) 1,260)                         | <u>(1,560)</u>  |
| <b>PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>   | <u>2,625</u>    |
| <i>Other comprehensive income:</i>                                   |                 |
| <i>Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss:</i>             |                 |
| <i>Exchange differences on translating foreign operations</i> (W7)   | 320.3           |
| <i>Other comprehensive income for the year</i>                       | <u>320.3</u>    |
| <b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>                       | <u>2,945.3</u>  |
| <i>Profit attributable to:</i>                                       |                 |
| Owners of the parent (2,625 – 600)                                   | 2,025           |
| Non-controlling interests ((W3) 2,400 × 25%)                         | 600             |
|  | <u>2,625</u>    |
| <i>Total comprehensive income attributable to:</i>                   |                 |
| Owners of the parent (2,945.3 – 680.1)                               | 2,265.2         |
| Non-controlling interests [((W3) 2,400 + (W7) 320.3) × 25%]          | 680.1           |
|  | <u>2,945.3</u>  |

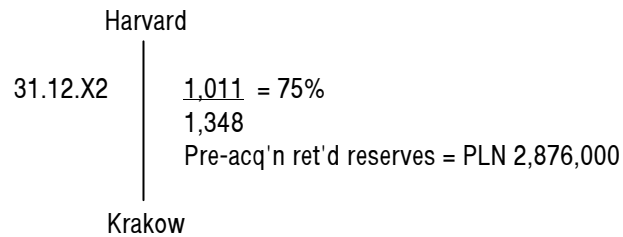


STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 20X5 (EXTRACT)

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
|  | \$'000                   |
|  | <i>Retained reserves</i> |
| Balance at 1 January 20X5 (W5)                       | 1,451.8                  |
| Dividends  | (700)                    |
| Total comprehensive income for the year (per SPLOCI) | <u>2,265.2</u>           |
| Balance at 31 December 20X5 (W5)                     | <u>3,017.0</u>           |

*Workings*

1 *Group structure*



2 *Translation of Krakow – statement of financial position*

|                                     | PLN           | Rate | \$'000       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
|                                     | '000          |      |              |
| Property, plant and equipment       | 4,860         | 3.6  | 1,350        |
| Inventories                         | 8,316         | 3.6  | 2,310        |
| Trade receivables                   | 4,572         | 3.6  | 1,270        |
| Cash                                | <u>2,016</u>  | 3.6  | <u>560</u>   |
|                                     | <u>19,764</u> |      | <u>5,490</u> |
| Share capital                       | 1,348         | 4.4  | 306.4        |
| Retained reserves                   |               |      |              |
| – pre-acquisition                   | 2,876         | 4.4  | 653.6        |
| – post-acquisition (14,060 – 2,876) | <u>11,184</u> | β    | <u>3,320</u> |
|                                     | 15,408        |      | 4,280        |
| Trade payables                      | <u>4,356</u>  | 3.6  | <u>1,210</u> |
|                                     | <u>19,764</u> |      | <u>5,490</u> |

3 *Translation of Krakow – statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income*

|  | PLN             | Rate | \$'000          |
|--|-----------------|------|-----------------|
|  | '000            |      |                 |
| Revenue                                  | 97,125          | 3.75 | 25,900          |
| Cost of sales                            | <u>(77,550)</u> | 3.75 | <u>(20,680)</u> |
| Gross profit                             | 19,575          |      | 5,220           |
| Distribution and administrative expenses | <u>(5,850)</u>  | 3.75 | <u>(1,560)</u>  |
| Profit before tax                        | 13,725          |      | 3,660           |
| Income tax expense                       | <u>(4,725)</u>  | 3.75 | <u>(1,260)</u>  |
| Profit for the year                      | <u>9,000</u>    |      | <u>2,400</u>    |

|   |  |              |             |      |                   |
|---|--|--------------|-------------|------|-------------------|
| 4 | <i>Goodwill</i>  | PLN<br>'000  | PLN<br>'000 | Rate | \$'000            |
|   | Consideration transferred ( $840 \times 4.4$ )   |              | 3,696       |      | 840               |
|   | Non-controlling interests (at FV: $270 \times 4.4$ )                                       |              | 1,188       |      | 270               |
|   | Less: Share of net assets at acquisition:  |              |             | 4.4  |                   |
|   | Share capital  | 1,348        |             |      |                   |
|   | Retained reserves  | <u>2,876</u> |             |      |                   |
|   |  |              | (4,224)     |      | (960)             |
|   | Goodwill at acquisition  |              | <u>660</u>  |      | 150               |
|   | Exchange gain 20X3 – 20X4  |              | -           | β    | 15                |
|   | Goodwill at 31 December 20X4   |              | <u>660</u>  | 4.0  | 165               |
|   | Exchange gain 20X5   |              | -           | β    | 18.3              |
|   | Goodwill at year end   |              | <u>660</u>  | 3.6  | <u>183.3</u>      |
| 5 | <i>Proof of retained reserves</i>  |              |             |      | \$'000            |
|   | (i) At 31 December 20X5  |              |             |      |                   |
|   | Harvard  |              |             |      | 502               |
|   | Add: Group share of post-acquisition retained reserves of Krakow                           |              |             |      | 2,490             |
|   | ((W2) $3,320 \times 75\%$ )  |              |             |      |                   |
|   | Group share of impairment losses to date   |              |             |      | (0)               |
|   | Group share of exchange differences on goodwill ((W4) $15 + 18.3 \times 75\%$ )            |              |             |      | <u>25.0</u>       |
|   |  |              |             |      | <u>3,017.0</u>    |
|   | (ii) At 31 December 20X4   |              |             |      | \$'000            |
|   | Harvard ( $502 - (945 - 700)$ )  |              |             |      | 257               |
|   | Add: Group share of post-acquisition retained reserves of Krakow *                         |              |             |      | 1,183.5           |
|   | ((PLN $15,408 - 9,000 + 3,744$ )/4) –  |              |             |      |                   |
|   | (PLN (W2) $(1,348 + 2,876)/4.4 \times 75\%$ )  |              |             |      |                   |
|   | Group share of impairment losses to 31.12.X4   |              |             |      | (0)               |
|   | Group share of exchange differences on goodwill ((W4) $15 \times 75\%$ )                   |              |             |      | <u>11.3</u>       |
|   |  |              |             |      | <u>1,451.8</u>    |
|   | * <b>Note.</b> This is calculated by comparing the net assets at the two dates.            |              |             |      |                   |
| 6 | <i>Non-controlling interests</i>   |              |             |      | \$'000            |
|   | NCI at acquisition (W4)  |              |             |      | 270               |
|   | Add: NCI share of post-acquisition retained reserves of Krakow ((W2) $3,320 \times 25\%$ ) |              |             |      | 830               |
|   | NCI share of impairment losses to date   |              |             |      | (0)               |
|   | NCI share of exchange differences on goodwill (((W4) $15 + 18.3 \times 25\%$ )             |              |             |      | <u>8.3</u>        |
|   |  |              |             |      | <u>1,108.3</u>    |
| 7 | <i>Exchange differences arising during the year</i>  |              |             |      | SP/LOC/<br>\$'000 |
|   | On translation of net assets of Krakow:  |              |             |      |                   |
|   | Closing NA at CR (W2)  |              |             |      | 4,280             |
|   | Opening NA @ OR $[(15,408 - 9,000 + 3,744)/4.0]$   |              |             |      | <u>(2,538)</u>    |
|   |  |              |             |      | 1,742             |
|   | Less: retained profit as translated ((W3) $2,400 - 3,744/3.90$ )                           |              |             |      | <u>(1,440)</u>    |
|   |  |              |             |      | 302               |
|   | On goodwill (W4)   |              |             |      | <u>18.3</u>       |
|   |  |              |             |      | <u>320.3</u>      |

## 21 Porter

PORTER GROUP

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 20X6

|  | \$'m        | \$'m       |
|--|-------------|------------|
| <i>Cash flows from operating activities</i>  |             |            |
| Profit before taxation   | 112         |            |
| Adjustments for:   |             |            |
| Depreciation   | 44          |            |
| Impairment losses on goodwill (W2)   | 3           |            |
| Foreign exchange loss (W8)   | 2           |            |
| Investment income – share of profit of associate                                   | (12)        |            |
| Investment income – gains on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | (6)         |            |
| Interest expense   | 16          |            |
|  | <u>159</u>  |            |
| Increase in trade receivables (132 – 112 – 16)                                     | (4)         |            |
| Decrease in inventories (154 – 168 – 20)   | 34          |            |
| Decrease in trade payables (110 – 98 – 12 – (W8) 17 PPE payable)                   | <u>(17)</u> |            |
| Cash generated from operations   | 172         |            |
| Interest paid (W7)   | (12)        |            |
| Income taxes paid (W6)   | <u>(37)</u> |            |
| <i>Net cash from operating activities</i>  |             | 123        |
| <i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>  |             |            |
| Acquisition of subsidiary, net of cash acquired (26 – 8)                           | (18)        |            |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment (W1)                                     | (25)        |            |
| Purchase of financial assets (W4)  | (10)        |            |
| Dividend received from associate (W3)  | <u>11</u>   |            |
| <i>Net cash used in investing activities</i>                                       |             | (42)       |
| <i>Cash flows from financing activities</i>  |             |            |
| Proceeds from issuance of share capital  | 18          |            |
| (332 + 212 – 300 – 172 – (80 × 60%/2 × \$2.25))                                    |             |            |
| Proceeds from long-term borrowings (380 – 320)                                     | 60          |            |
| Dividend paid  | (45)        |            |
| Dividends paid to non-controlling interests (W5)                                   | <u>(4)</u>  |            |
| <i>Net cash from financing activities</i>  |             | 29         |
| <i>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</i>                                   |             | 110        |
| <i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</i>                      |             | <u>48</u>  |
| <i>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</i>                            |             | <u>158</u> |

### Workings

- 1 Additions to property, plant and equipment

| PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT |              |              |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                               | \$'m         |              | \$'m         |
| b/d                           | 812          |              |              |
| Revaluation                   | 58           | Depreciation | 44           |
| Acquisition of subsidiary     | 92           |              |              |
| Additions on credit (W8)      | 15           |              |              |
| ∴ Additions for cash          | 25           | c/d          | 958          |
|                               | <u>1,002</u> |              | <u>1,002</u> |

2 *Impairment losses on goodwill*

| GOODWILL   |           |                     |           |
|--|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
|  | \$'m      |                     | \$'m      |
| b/d  | 10        |                     |           |
| Acq'n of subsidiary  |           | ∴ Impairment losses | 3         |
| $[(80 \times 60\% / 2 \times 2.25) + 26 + (120 \times 40\%)$ |           |                     |           |
| $- 120 \text{ net assets}]$                                  | 8         | c/d                 | 15        |
|  | <u>18</u> |                     | <u>18</u> |

3 *Dividends received from associate*

| INVESTMENT IN ASSOCIATE |           |                      |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
|                         | \$'m      |                      | \$'m      |
| b/d                     | 39        |                      |           |
| P/L                     | 12        | ∴ Dividends received | 11        |
| OCI                     | 8         |                      |           |
|                         |           | c/d                  | 48        |
|                         | <u>59</u> |                      | <u>59</u> |

4 *Purchase of financial assets*

| FINANCIAL ASSETS AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH PROFIT OR LOSS |           |     |           |
|---|-----------|-----|-----------|
|   | \$'m      |     | \$'m      |
| b/d   | 0         |     |           |
| P/L   | 6         |     |           |
| ∴ Additions   | 10        |     |           |
|   |           | c/d | 16        |
|   | <u>16</u> |     | <u>16</u> |

5 *Dividends paid to non-controlling interests*

| NON-CONTROLLING INTERESTS |           |   |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|
|                           | \$'m      |   | \$'m      |
|                           |           | b/d   | 28        |
| ∴ Dividends paid          | 4         | TCI   | 12        |
| c/d                       | 84        | Acquisition of subsidiary ( $120 \times 40\%$ ) | 48        |
|                           | <u>88</u> |   | <u>88</u> |

6 *Income taxes paid*

| INCOME TAX PAYABLE  |            |                           |            |
|---------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|
|                     | \$'m       |                           | \$'m       |
|                     |            | b/d (deferred tax)        | 26         |
|                     |            | b/d (current tax)         | 22         |
|                     |            | P/L                       | 34         |
| ∴ Income taxes paid | 37         | OCI                       | 17         |
| c/d (deferred tax)  | 38         | Acquisition of subsidiary | 4          |
| c/d (current tax)   | 28         |                           |            |
|                     | <u>103</u> |                           | <u>103</u> |

7 *Interest paid*

| INTEREST PAYABLE |           |     |           |
|------------------|-----------|-----|-----------|
|                  | \$'m      |     | \$'m      |
|                  |           | b/d | 4         |
|                  |           | P/L | 16        |
| ∴ Interest paid  | 12        |     |           |
| c/d              | 8         |     |           |
|                  | <u>20</u> |     | <u>20</u> |

8 *Foreign currency transaction*

| Transactions recorded on: |  | \$m | \$m |
|---------------------------|--|-----|-----|
| 1) 5 March                | DEBIT Property, plant and equipment (102m/6.8) | 15  |     |
|                           | CREDIT Payables                                |     | 15  |
| 2) 31 May                 | Payable = 102m/6.0 = \$17m                     |     |     |
|                           | DEBIT P/L (Admin expenses)                     | 2   |     |
|                           | CREDIT Payables (17 – 15)                      |     | 2   |

## 22 Grow by acquisition

(a) **Note 1**

The substance of this transaction is that X has made a loan of \$2.4m to A. All aspects of the 'sale' should be eliminated, as follows.

- (i) Reduce revenue by \$2,400,000.
- (ii) Reduce cost of sales by  $\$2,400,000 \times 100/160 = \$1,500,000$ .
- (iii) Reduce gross profit by  $(\$2,400,000 - \$1,500,000) = \$900,000$ .
- (iv) Increase loans by \$2,400,000.

**Note 2**

To be comparable, the non-current assets of A and B should either both be shown at cost or both at a revalued amount, with the revaluation done on the same basis. It is not feasible to 'revalue' A's non-current assets for purposes of comparison. However, B's non-current assets can be shown at cost by reversing out the revaluation, as follows.

- (i) Reduce non-current assets by \$5,000,000.
- (ii) Reduce the revaluation reserve to nil.
- (iii) Reduce cost of sales by \$1,000,000. This is the excess depreciation no longer required.
- (iv) Increase gross profit by \$1,000,000.

**Summary**

**A**

| Item                              | Per original f/s | Adjustment | New figure |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------|------------|
|                                   | \$'000           | \$'000     | \$'000     |
| Revenue                           | 68,000           | (2,400)    | 65,600     |
| Cost of sales                     | 42,000           | (1,500)    | 40,500     |
| Gross profit                      | 26,000           | (900)      | 25,100     |
| Profit from operations            | 8,000            | (900)      | 7,100      |
| Inventory                         | 6,000            | 1,500      | 7,500      |
| Short term borrowing              | —                | 2,400      | 2,400      |
| Total borrowings (4,000 + 16,000) | 20,000           | 2,400      | 22,400     |
| Shareholders' funds               | 23,500           | (900)      | 22,600     |

B

| Item                   | Per original f/s | Adjustment | New figure |
|------------------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| Non-current assets     | 35,050           | (5,000)    | 30,050     |
| Revaluation reserve    | 5,000            | (5,000)    | Nil        |
| Cost of sales          | 45,950           | (1,000)    | 44,950     |
| Gross profit           | 20,050           | 1,000      | 21,050     |
| Profit from operations | 6,050            | 1,000      | 7,050      |
| Shareholders' funds    | 22,050           | (5,000)    | 17,050     |

(b) All monetary amounts in \$'000

| Ratio                        | A                               |         | B                                       |         |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|---|---------|
| Return on capital employed   | $\frac{7,100}{22,600 + 22,400}$ | = 15.8% | $\frac{7,050}{17,050 + 6,000 + 18,000}$ | = 17.2% |
| Gross profit margin          | $\frac{25,100}{65,600}$         | = 38.3% | $\frac{21,050}{66,000}$                 | = 31.9% |
| Turnover of capital employed | $\frac{65,600}{45,000}$         | = 1.5   | $\frac{66,000}{41,050}$                 | = 1.6   |
| Leverage                     | $\frac{22,400}{45,000}$         | = 49.8% | $\frac{24,000}{41,050}$                 | = 58.5% |

**BPP note.** The effective loan of \$2.4m could arguably be excluded from borrowings as it is short term.

(c) The adjustments carried out to make the financial statements of the two entities comparable make it **far less easy to decide** which entity to target. The ratios are now far more similar. **A** has a **higher gross profit and gross profit margin**. However, the **return on capital employed is lower**. The main reason for this is that A's other operating expenses are higher than B's. The revenue figures are now nearly identical due to the elimination of the 'sale' from the accounts of A. The asset turnover ratios, both before and after adjustments, do not show significant differences.

Where **A** has an **advantage** over B is in the **leverage ratio**. Leverage of both entities has increased, but more so in the case of B. Whether this influences the directors' decision depends on whether they intend to change the financial structure of the company.

Overall it would appear that **B** would be a **better investment**. However, there is not a great deal to choose between the two entities, and this exercise shows the importance of adjusting financial statements to achieve uniform accounting policies when making this kind of decision. It is notable that the 'sale' by A was **incorrectly** accounted for, while B's revaluation is **permissible**.

## 23 German competitor

**Tutorial note.** You do not need to know about German accounting practice to answer this question, just a basic knowledge of the differences between the European and UK models and your common sense! Think of this as an interpretation of accounts questions.

To: Managing Director  
 From: An Accountant  
 Date: xx.xx.xx  
 Re: Hilde GmbH

(a) *Analysis of performance plus commentary (€ million)*

|   | 20X4         | 20X5         | %<br>Increase<br>(decrease) |
|---|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income</i> |              |              |                             |
| Sales   | <u>1,270</u> | <u>1,890</u> | <u>49</u>                   |
| Cost of sales   |              |              |                             |
| Material purchased  | 400          | 740          |                             |
| De-stocking of materials  | 40           | 90           |                             |
| Material cost   | <u>440</u>   | <u>830</u>   | 89                          |
| Labour cost   | 285          | 500          | 75                          |
| Depreciation  | 150          | 200          | 33                          |
| Current assets written off  | 20           | 30           | 50                          |
| Other operating expenses  | 40           | 50           | 25                          |
| Finished goods inventory increase                                 | <u>(80)</u>  | <u>(120)</u> | 50                          |
|   | <u>855</u>   | <u>1,490</u> |                             |
| Operating profit before other income                              | <u>415</u>   | <u>400</u>   | (4)                         |
| Profit rate on revenue  | 32%          | 21%          |                             |
| Other operating income  | 50           | 75           | 50                          |

*Cash flows*

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
|                                  | € million  |
| Share capital issued             | 200        |
| Increased payables               | 75         |
| Increased accruals               | 20         |
| Profit ploughed back (185 + 200) | <u>385</u> |
|                                  | <u>680</u> |

These flows were used to finance:

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Purchases of plant (550 + 200)         | 750        |
| Net inventory                          | 30         |
| More credit to customers               | <u>80</u>  |
|  | <u>860</u> |
| Difference: reduction in cash reserves | <u>180</u> |

*Other relevant performance measures*

|   | 20X4                           | 20X5                           |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Receivables turnover  |                                |                                |
| $= \frac{\text{Trade receivables}}{\text{Sales}} \times 365$                    | $\frac{100}{1,270} \times 365$ | $\frac{180}{1,890} \times 365$ |
|   | = 29 days                      | = 35 days                      |
| Current ratio   |                                |                                |
| $= \frac{\text{Current assets}}{\text{Current liabilities}}$                    | $\frac{420 + 70}{350}$         | $\frac{350 + 50}{425}$         |
|   | = 1.4                          | = 0.94                         |
| Quick ratio   |                                |                                |
| $= \frac{\text{Current assets} - \text{Inventory}}{\text{Current liabilities}}$ | $\frac{100 + 200 + 70}{350}$   | $\frac{180 + 20 + 50}{425}$    |
|   | = 1.06                         | = 0.59                         |

*Commentary*

- (i) Material costs and labour costs have risen at an alarming rate in 20X5 and to a certain extent other costs have also increased substantially. These increases are far greater than the increase in revenue. A lack of co-ordination of production to sales has created a substantial build up of finished goods in inventory.
- (ii) Interest costs and other operating income have both increased substantially, but because debt and investments (respectively) are not shown on the statement of financial position it

is not possible to judge why these rises have taken place. One possibility is that the increases in the value of land and buildings represent additions which are being rented out.

- (iii) Payables have increased only slightly considering the increases in purchases during the year. This may indicate that the company's trade payables are taking a very firm line with the company and thus the trade payables balance is being held firm.
  - (iv) Although shares were issued during the year, at a premium of 100%, the fact that appropriations are not disclosed in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income makes it very difficult to determine what type of dividend policy the company is following, and hence what kind of return shareholders have received over the two years.
  - (v) The length of credit period given to customers has increased (if all sales are on credit). While trading conditions may make this slip in credit control a necessity, it is regrettable that the company cannot obtain the same more relaxed terms from its suppliers; this would balance out working capital requirements, at least to some extent.
  - (vi) The inventory situation is what has changed most dramatically between 20X4 and 20X5. The rise in position statement inventories of € 30m may appear moderate, but it represents a rise of € 120m in finished goods and a fall of € 90 m in raw materials. It may be the case that the company is manufacturing less and buying in more finished goods, but the increase in labour costs would tend to negate this. It seems more likely that the company has greatly over-estimated the level of sales for 20X5, and has therefore ended 20X5 with an anomalous inventory position.
  - (vii) The cash levels held by the business, while perhaps on the high side at the beginning of the year, now appear far too low. The company is verging on an overdraft situation, in spite of receiving cash from a share issue during the year. The working capital situation, and in particular the inventory levels, must be resolved in order to recover the liquidity position of the business. If not, then there will be some difficulty in paying suppliers and taxes in the near future.
- (b) A direct comparison of the results of Tone and Hilde GmbH may be misleading for the following reasons.
- (i) It is unlikely that the two companies follow the same, or even similar, accounting policies, for example on inventory valuation, depreciation, valuation of land and buildings etc. Also, the general approach to receivables recoverability may be more or less prudent in the UK than under Tone's approach. These policies would have to be investigated to discover whether comparison is really feasible.
  - (ii) Hilde GmbH's payables are not split between short and long term, ie those due within one year and in more than one year (if any). Gearing ratios cannot be calculated, and the current and quick ratios calculated in (a) are of limited value.
  - (iii) There may be local or country-specific types of relationships between customers and suppliers which are different from the UK methods of doing business.
  - (iv) There is an interest charge shown in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income but the statement of financial position shows no separate disclosure of loans. The explanation may be that an interest charge is payable on the share capital in place of dividends.
  - (v) A legal reserve is shown. There is no indication of what type of reserve this may be comparable with (if any) in UK financial statements.
  - (vi) The statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income does not show a figure of gross profit making it difficult to compare margins.
  - (vii) The expenses include valuation adjustments for depreciation and current assets. It is not clear how these arise. They may simply comprise the normal depreciation charge and, say, a provision against doubtful receivables and obsolete inventory. It is true of many of the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income figures, that a lack of knowledge about how, say, 'cost of sales' is computed, prevents comparison with UK accounts.



## 24 Burley

### Marking scheme

|                                    | Marks     |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| (a) Revenue recognition            | 3         |
| Inventory                          | 3         |
| Events after reporting period      | 3         |
|                                    | <u>9</u>  |
| (b) Jointly controlled             | 3         |
| Accounting for entity              | 2         |
| Decommissioning                    | 5         |
|                                    | <u>10</u> |
| (c) Asset definition/IAS 38/IAS 36 | 4         |
| Professional marks                 | 2         |
|                                    | <u>25</u> |

- (a) Revenue from the sale of goods should only be recognised when **all the following conditions** are satisfied.
- (i) The entity has transferred the **significant risks and rewards** of ownership of the goods to the buyer
  - (ii) The entity has **no continuing managerial involvement** to the degree usually associated with ownership, and no longer has effective control over the goods sold
  - (iii) The amount of revenue can be **measured reliably**
  - (iv) It is probable that the **economic benefits** associated with the transaction will flow to the enterprise
  - (v) The **costs incurred** in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably

The transfer of risks and rewards can only be decided by examining each transaction. In the case of the oil sold to third parties, all the revenue should be recognised as all the criteria have been met.

#### Revenue up to 1 October 20X9

The arrangement between Burley and Slite is a **joint arrangement** under IFRS 11 *Joint arrangements*, since both entities jointly control an asset – the oilfield. However, the arrangement is not structured as a separate entity, so it is a **joint operation not a joint venture**. This means that **each company accounts for its share of revenue** in respect of oil produced up to 1 October 20X9, calculated, using the selling price to third parties of \$100 per barrel, as:

Burley: 60%  
Slite: 40%

#### Excess oil extracted

Burley has over-extracted and Slite under-extracted by 10,000 barrels of oil. The **substance** of the transaction is that **Burley has purchased the oil from Slite** at the point of production at the market value ruling at that point, namely \$100 per barrel. Burley should therefore **recognise a purchase** from Slite in the amount of  $10,000 \times \$100 = \$1\text{m}$ .

The accounting entries would be:

|        |                             |      |      |
|--------|-----------------------------|------|------|
| DEBIT  | Purchases                   | \$1m |      |
| CREDIT | Slite – financial liability |      | \$1m |

The **amount payable to Slite at the year end** will **change with the movement in the price of oil** and therefore the financial liability recorded at the year end should reflect the best estimate of the

cash payable. By the year end the price of oil has risen to \$105 per barrel, so the financial liability will be  $10,000 \times \$105 = \$1,050,000$ , an **increase of \$50,000**. The accounting entries to reflect this increase in liability and expense to profit or loss at the year end will be:

|        |                             |          |          |
|--------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| DEBIT  | Expense (P/L)               | \$50,000 |          |
| CREDIT | Slite – financial liability |          | \$50,000 |

After the year end the price of oil changes again, and the transaction is settled at \$95 per barrel. The cash paid by Burley to Slite on 12 December 20X9 is  $10,000 \times \$95 = \$950,000$ . This means that a **gain arises after the year end** of  $\$1,050,000 - \$950,000 = \$100,000$ . This gain will be **taken to profit or loss** in the **following accounting period**:

|        |                             |           |           |
|--------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| DEBIT  | Slite – financial liability | \$100,000 |           |
| CREDIT | Profit or loss              |           | \$100,000 |

The gain arising is an **event after the reporting period**. These are defined by IAS 10 *Events after the reporting period* as events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date that the financial statements are authorised for issue.

The question arises of whether this is an **adjusting or non-adjusting** event. An adjusting event is an event after the reporting period that provides further evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period. A non-adjusting event is an event after the reporting period that is indicative of a **condition that arose after the end of the reporting period**. The price of oil changes frequently in response to a number of factors, reflecting events that arose after the year end. It would therefore not be appropriate to adjust the financial statements in response to the decline in the price of oil. The gain is therefore a **non-adjusting** event after the reporting period.

### Inventory

IAS 2 *Inventories* requires that inventories should be stated at the **lower of cost and net realisable value**. Net realisable value (NRV) is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated cost of completion and the estimated costs of making the sale.

In estimating NRV, entities must use reliable evidence of the **market price** available at the time. Such evidence includes any movements in price that reflect conditions at the year end, including prices recorded after the year end to the extent that they confirm these conditions. In the case of Burley, the appropriate market price to use is that recorded at the year end, namely **\$105 per barrel**, since the decline to \$95 results from conditions arising after the year end. Selling costs are \$2 per barrel, so the amount to be used for NRV in valuing the inventory is  $\$105 - \$2 = \$103$  per barrel.

**Net realisable value, in this instance, is higher than cost**, which was \$98 per barrel. The inventory should be stated at the lower of the two, that is at \$98 per barrel, giving a total inventory value of  $\$98 \times 5,000 = \$490,000$ . No loss is recorded as no write-down to NRV has been made.

### (b) Arrangement with Jorge

Burley wishes to account for its arrangement with Jorge using the equity method. It can only do so if the arrangement meets the criteria in IFRS 11 *Joint arrangements* for a **joint venture**.

A **joint arrangement** is an arrangement, as here, of which two or more parties have joint control. A **joint venture** is a joint arrangement whereby the parties that have control of the arrangement have **rights to the net assets** of the arrangement.

Wells is a **separate vehicle**. As such, it could be either a joint operation or joint venture, so other facts must be considered.

There are no facts that suggest that Burley and Jorge have rights to substantially all the benefits of the assets of Wells nor an obligation for its liabilities.

Each party's liability is limited to any unpaid capital contribution.

As a result, each party has an interest in the **net assets** of Wells and should account for it as a **joint venture** using the **equity method**.

### Decommissioning costs

Decommissioning costs are not payable until some future date, therefore the **amount of costs** that will be incurred is generally **uncertain**. IAS 16 *Property, plant and equipment* requires that management should record **its best estimate** of the entity's obligations. Since the cash flows are delayed, **discounting is used**. The estimate of the amount payable is discounted to the date of initial recognition and the discounted amount is capitalised. A corresponding credit is recorded in provisions. Changes in the liability and resulting from changes in the discount rate adjust the cost of the related asset in the current period.

The decommissioning costs of Wells are accounted for as follows:

|  | \$m           |
|--|---------------|
| Cost ten years ago                               | 240.0         |
| Depreciation: $240 \times 10/40$                 | (60.0)        |
| Decrease in decommissioning costs: $32.6 - 18.5$ | <u>(14.1)</u> |
| Carrying value at 1 December 20X8                | 165.9         |
| Less depreciation: $165.9 \div 30$ years         | <u>(5.5)</u>  |
| Carrying amount at 30 November 20X9              | <u>160.4</u>  |

The provision as restated at 1 December 20X8 would be increased at 30 November 20X9 by the unwinding of the discount of the new rate of 7%.

|   | \$m         |
|---|-------------|
| Decommissioning liability: $32.6 - 14.1$      | 18.5        |
| Finance costs: $18.5 \times 7\%$              | <u>1.3</u>  |
| Decommissioning liability at 30 November 20X9 | <u>19.8</u> |

### Pipeline

Since Burley has joint control over the pipeline, even though its interest is only 10%, it would not be appropriate to show the pipeline as an investment. This is a **joint arrangement** under IFRS 11.

The pipeline is a **jointly controlled asset**, and it is **not structured through a separate vehicle**. Accordingly, the arrangement is a **joint operation**.

IFRS 11 *Joint arrangements* requires that a joint operator **recognises line-by-line the following** in relation to its interest in a joint operation:

- (i) Its **assets**, including its share of any jointly held assets
- (ii) Its **liabilities**, including its share of any jointly incurred liabilities
- (iii) Its **revenue** from the sale of its share of the output arising from the joint operation
- (iv) Its **share of the revenue from the sale of the output** by the joint operation, and
- (v) Its **expenses**, including its share of any expenses incurred jointly.

This treatment is applicable in both the separate and consolidated financial statements of the joint operator.

#### (c) Intangible asset

The relevant standard here is IAS 38 *Intangible assets*. An intangible asset may be recognised if it meets the **identifiability criteria** in IAS 38, if it is probable that **future economic benefits** attributable to the asset will flow to the entity and if its **fair value can be measured reliably**. For an intangible asset to be identifiable, the asset must be separable, or it must arise from contractual or other legal rights.

It appears that these **criteria have been met**. The licence has been acquired separately, and its value can be measured reliably at the purchase price.

Burley does not yet know if the extraction of oil is commercially viable, and does not know for sure whether oil will be discovered in the region. If, on further exploration, some or all activities must be discontinued, then the licence must be **tested for impairment** following IAS 36 *Impairment of assets*. (IAS 36 has a number of impairment indicators, both internal and external.)

It is possible that the licence may **increase in value** if commercial viability is proven. However, IAS 38 does not allow revaluation unless there is an **active market** for the asset.

## 25 Public sector organisations

- (a) The principal reason for the differences stem from the different way in which the organisations receive their funding and how they are controlled.

In the private sector capital funds are generally provided by means of the issue of shares or by the owners. From the point of view of the company, accounts are necessary initially to report to the shareholders or owners. Since shareholders will be interested in comparing investment prospects of different companies it is necessary that accounts are prepared using standard accounting principles.

Private sector accounts are also used by potential lenders and creditors to determine the credit worthiness of companies so the accounts need to be prepared in such a way that this can be determined.

In the private sector, revenue income is derived from the customers but this does not result in any accounting obligation because customers are free to use other suppliers if the service provided is unsatisfactory.

In the public sector, the sources of funds both capital and revenue are ultimately from the public in the form of taxation, council tax and charges for services. These are controlled by central government and local authorities. Since there is no choice on behalf of the providers of these funds the function of the accounts is rather different to those of the private sector and more rigorously controlled.

- (b) The main differences between laws, regulations and guidelines are as follows.

- (i) *Laws.* In the private sector the accounts are governed by statute. These specify the items which must be included in the accounts and the general format. The purpose of the provisions in these Acts is to ensure the accounts give a 'true and fair' view of the financial position and performance of the company for the shareholders, lenders and creditors.

In the public sector there are separate laws for each service requiring them to produce accounts. Some of these services, such as health care, are funded by central government and in these cases the laws generally state simply that accounts must be prepared. The relevant government department is responsible for the format in which the accounts are to be prepared for the purpose of reporting to Government.

In the case of local authorities, funds come from central government in the form of the revenue support grant, from the local population in the form of local taxes and from the users of services in the form of charges. The laws relating to the accounts of local authorities require the accounts to be prepared in such a way as to account to each of these groups.

- (ii) *Regulations.* Although the laws indicate the general way in which accounts are to be prepared, not all eventualities can be covered and there is much room for variation in the way particular financial transactions can be accounted for. As a consequence of this, International Financial Reporting Standards have been produced by the accounting profession specifying in more detail how items are to be treated in the accounts with a view to producing accounts which are more comparable and reliable.

However, these standards are written primarily with the private sector in mind and under certain circumstances the requirements of central government regarding the accounts in some public sector organisations will override these.

- (iii) *Guidelines.* In the public sector the purpose of the accounts is to report to central government, local taxpayers and users of the services. As a consequence it is often necessary that the accounts be produced in a particular format to provide the necessary information, or to include details of particular aspects of the financial transactions. Consequently, Government has considerable powers under the law to issue detailed

guidelines on how the accounts are to be prepared. An example of this is the Manual of Accounts produced by the Department of Health. This gives the precise format of the accounts together with great detail of accounting procedures to be adopted. In some cases these powers have been delegated to Standard Setting bodies, for example for local authority accounts.

- (c) The consequences for the public accounts in the public sector is that, although the accounts are produced using generally the same principles as the private sector, their details are often quite different depending on the bodies to be reported to.

In central government departments, such as the Health Service, the accounts are produced fundamentally to account to Government for the funds voted to the Health Service. Consequently they are produced in an absolutely prescribed form so that they can be easily consolidated. The reporting to the general public on the use of funds is a secondary consideration as it is assumed that parliament are responsible for the use of the funds on behalf of the taxpayers.

In case of local government, the annual report which they are required to produce includes comparative statistics and information about the council's policies which are intended to inform the general public about the activities of the council. This is necessary because the council which is responsible for the expenditure is elected by the residents of the area.

- (d) **Stock market quoted clothes retailer**

The main objective of a stock market quoted company will generally be to maximise profit, net assets and share price for the shareholders.

Individual companies may have slightly different objectives depending on who their shareholders are, for example maintaining a constant dividend payment if their main shareholders are looking for income.

Consequently, main objectives of management will be:

- Revenue maximisation (at the right price)
- Maintaining or increasing market share
- Product innovation to attract new customers and retain existing ones
- Cost minimisation, eg purchasing fabric at the best price for the quality required
- Profit maximisation and growth.

Public companies may also have secondary aims imposed by government or by their stakeholders, such as producing their goods ethically (eg paying decent wages where clothes are made in developing countries) or minimising the negative effects of their activities on the environment (the so called 'carbon footprint').

#### **State-funded not-for-profit hospital**

A state-funded hospital will presumably have a fixed income or grant from the government, or at least a budget that must be adhered to.

The primary objective of a hospital will therefore be to treat the maximum number of patients without exceeding the funds available.

This will require similar budgeting skills to a profit-oriented organisation to ensure that funds are used in the most efficient way, but a hospital will also have other social considerations:

- The need to prioritise treatment to those most in need
- To minimise waiting lists for treatment
- The need to set aside funds to cover an unexpected public health crisis.

The 'three Es' (Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness) would be relevant objectives here, which would provide a good basis for assessment.

- (e) (i) **Provisions.** Under full cash accounting, provisions are generally not recognised. When transitioning to accrual accounting, entities need to consider what particular organisational activities may give rise to provisions.

- (ii) **Leases.** Currently many leases in the public sector are accounted for as operating leases. Under cash accounting the treatment is similar to the accruals accounting treatment of operating leases. If IFRS is adopted in the public sector, more leases will be treated as finance leases, and will appear on the statement of financial position.

## 26 Small and medium-sized entities

### (a) Advantages

Although International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) were originally designed to be suitable for all types of entity, in recent years IFRSs have come increasingly complex. They are now designed primarily to meet the information needs of **institutional investors in large listed entities**.

**Shareholders of SMEs are often also directors.** Therefore, through managing the company and maintaining the financial records, they are already aware of the company's financial performance and position and so do not need the level of detail in financial statements required by external institutional investors of larger companies.

The main external **users of SMEs tend to be lenders, trade suppliers and the tax authorities.** They have **different needs** from institutional investors and are more likely to focus on shorter-term cash flows, liquidity and solvency.

Full IFRSs cover a wide range of issues, contain a sizeable amount of implementation guidance and include disclosure requirements appropriate for public companies. This can make them **too complex for users of SMEs to understand**.

Many SMEs feel that following full IFRSs places an unacceptable burden on preparers of SME accounts – a burden that has been growing as IFRSs become more detailed and more countries adopt them. The **cost of following full IFRSs often appears to outweigh the benefits**.

The **disclosure** requirements of full IFRSs are very **extensive** and as such, can result in **information overload** for the users of SME accounts, reducing the understandability of financial statements.

Some IFRSs still offer **choice of accounting treatments**, leading to **lack of comparability** between different companies adopting different accounting standards.

### Disadvantages

If SMEs follow their own simplified IFRSs, their accounts are **no longer be comparable** with larger companies following full IFRSs or with SMEs choosing to follow full IFRSs. This may make it harder to attract investors.

The changeover from full IFRSs to the simplified *IFRS for SMEs*, will require training and possible changes in systems. This will place both a **time and cost** burden on the company.

Full IFRSs are now well established and respected and act as a form of **quality control** on financial statements which comply with them. It could be argued therefore that financial statements which no longer comply with full IFRSs will **lose their credibility**. This is often called the 'Big GAAP, Little GAAP divide'.

The *IFRS for SMEs* **reduce disclosures** required by full IFRSs substantially. Omission of certain key information might actually make the financial statements **harder to understand**.

### Conclusion

The IASB believes that the advantages for SMEs of having a separate simplified set of IFRSs outweigh the disadvantages. They believe that both preparers and users of SME accounts will benefit.

(b) **Examples of full IFRSs with choice**

- (i) Under IAS 40 *Investment property*, either the cost model or fair value model (through profit or loss) are permitted. The *IFRS for SMEs* requires the fair value model (through profit or loss) to be used as long as fair value can be measured without undue cost or effort. This promotes consistency in the treatment of investment properties between SMEs' financial statements.

- (ii) IAS 16 *Property, plant and equipment* allows assets to be held under the cost or revaluation model. The *IFRS for SMEs* does not permit the revaluation model to be used.

IAS 38 *Intangible assets* allows either the cost model or revaluation model (where there is an active market). The *IFRS for SMEs* does not permit the revaluation model to be used.

Both of these eliminate the use of other comprehensive income, simplifying financial reporting and the need for costly revaluations.

- (iii) IFRS 3 *Business combinations* allows an entity to adopt the full or partial goodwill method in its consolidated financial statements. The *IFRS for SMEs* only allows the partial goodwill method, i.e. excluding non-controlling interests in goodwill. This avoids the need for SMEs to determine the fair value of the non-controlling interests not purchased when undertaking a business combination.

The *IFRS for SMEs* does not eliminate choice completely but disallows the third of the above options. It is one of the rare uses of other comprehensive income under the *IFRS for SMEs*.

**Examples of IFRSs with complex recognition and measurement requirements**

- (iv) IAS 38 *Intangible assets* requires internally generated assets to be capitalised if certain criteria (proving future economic benefits) are met. In reality, it is an onerous exercise to test these criteria for each type of internally generated asset and leads to inconsistency with some items being expensed and some capitalised.

The *IFRS for SMEs* removes these capitalisation criteria and requires all internally generated research and development expenditure to be expensed through profit or loss.

- (v) IFRS 3 *Business combinations* requires goodwill to be tested annually for impairment. In reality, it is very difficult to ascertain the recoverable amount for goodwill so instead the assets of the business need to be combined into cash-generating units or even a group of cash-generating units in order to determine any impairment loss. The impairment then needs to be allocated to goodwill and the other individual assets. This is a complex exercise.

The *IFRS for SMEs* requires goodwill to be amortised instead. This is a much simpler approach and the *IFRS for SMEs* specifies that if an entity is unable to make a reliable estimate of the useful life, it is presumed to be ten years, simplifying things even further.

- (vi) IAS 20 *Accounting for government grants and disclosure of government assistance* requires grants to be recognised only when it is reasonably certain that the entity will comply with the conditions attached to the grant and the grants will be received. Grants relating to income are recognised in profit or loss over the period the related costs are recognised in profit or loss. Grants relating to assets are either netted off the cost of the asset (reducing depreciation by the amount of the grant over the asset's useful life) or presented as deferred income (and released to profit or loss as income over the useful life of the asset).

The *IFRS for SMEs* simplifies this and specifies that where there are no specified future performance conditions, the grant should be recognised as income when it is receivable. Otherwise, it should be recognised as income when the performance conditions are met. This is more consistent with the IASB *Framework's* definition of income than the IAS 20 approach.

- (vii) IAS 23 *Borrowing costs* requires borrowing costs to be capitalised for qualifying assets for the period of construction. This involves a complex calculation particularly where funds are borrowed generally as a weighted average rate on loans outstanding has to be calculated in order to determine the amount of interest to be capitalised.

The *IFRS for SMEs* requires borrowing costs to be expensed, removing the need for such a complex calculation.

- (viii) IAS 36 *Impairment of assets* requires annual impairment tests for indefinite life intangibles, intangibles not yet available for use and goodwill. This is a complex, time-consuming and expensive test.

The *IFRS for SMEs* only requires impairment tests where there are indicators of impairment.

The full IFRS requires impairment losses to be charged firstly to other comprehensive income for revalued assets then to profit or loss. The *IFRS for SMEs* requires all impairment losses to be recognised in profit or loss, given that tangible and intangible assets cannot be revalued under the *IFRS for SMEs*.

## 27 Peter Holdings

**Divisional performance** should be measured, in the interests of the group's shareholders, in such a way as to indicate what sort of return each subsidiary is making on the **shareholder's investment**. Shareholders themselves are likely to be interested in the performance of the group as a whole, measured in terms of return on shareholders' capital, earnings per share, dividend yield, and growth in earnings and dividends. These performance ratios cannot be used for subsidiaries in the group, and so an alternative measure has to be selected, which compares the return from the subsidiary with the value of the investment in the subsidiary.

Two performance measures could be used. Both would provide a suitable indication of performance from the point of view of the group's shareholders.

- (a) Return on capital employed, which from the shareholders' point of view would be:

$$\frac{\text{Profit after interest}}{\text{Net assets at current valuation minus non-current liabilities (eg long-term borrowings)}}$$

- (b) Alternatively, residual income could be used. This might be:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} & \text{Profit after debt interest} & \\ \text{Minus} & \text{A notional interest charge on the value of assets financed by shareholders' capital} & \\ \text{Equals} & \text{Residual income.} & \end{array}$$

Residual income might be measured instead as:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} & \text{Profit before interest (controllable by the subsidiary's management)} & \\ \text{Minus} & \text{A notional interest charge on the controllable investments of the subsidiary} & \\ \text{Equals} & \text{Residual income.} & \end{array}$$

Each subsidiary would be able to increase its residual income if it earned an incremental profit in excess of the notional interest charges on its incremental investments – ie in effect, if it added to the value of the group's equity.



## 28 Planet

**Tutorial note.** A typical multi-standard question, requiring advice to a client.

(a) (i) **Additional purchase consideration**

The company should **recognise a liability of \$16 million and additional goodwill of \$16 million**. Although IFRS 3 *Business combinations* sets a time limit for recognition of fair value adjustments this applies only to the acquired assets and liabilities. There is **no time limit** for the recognition of **goodwill relating to contingent consideration**.

The accounting entries required are:

|        |                              | \$'000 | \$'000 |
|--------|------------------------------|--------|--------|
| DEBIT  | Intangible assets (goodwill) | 16,000 |        |
| CREDIT | Current liabilities          |        | 16,000 |

(ii) **Buildings**

In each case the main issue is whether Planet should recognise a provision for future repair and refurbishment expenditure.

*Operating lease*

IAS 37 *Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets* states that a provision should only be recognised if there is **a present obligation resulting from a past event**. The terms of the lease contract mean that Planet has an obligation to incur expenditure in order to return the buildings to the lessee in good condition. The past obligating event appears to be the signing of the lease.

However, **future repairs and maintenance costs** relate to the future operation of the business. They are **not present obligations** resulting from past events. If IAS 37 is interpreted strictly, no provision should be recognised. The repair costs should either be charged as operating expenses in the period in which they occur or capitalised as assets.

Despite this, there is a strong case for recognising a provision for at least some of the expenditure. A lessee may be required to incur periodic charges to **make good dilapidations** or other damage occurring during the rental period. These liabilities **may be recognised, provided that the event giving rise to the obligation under the lease has occurred**. Damage to the building has occurred because of the severe weather and therefore a provision should be recognised for the \$2.4 million needed to rectify this damage.

Whether any further amounts should be provided depends on the event that gives rise to the present obligation. It is possible to argue that the obligating event is the occurrence of specific damage to the building, but the cost of repairing actual dilapidation to the building during the year would be **difficult to estimate accurately**. It could also be argued that the obligating event is the passage of time, because some expenditure would be necessary if the lease were terminated immediately. Therefore a further \$1,600,000 should be provided (\$12 million less \$2.4 million divided by six). The total provision is \$4 million.

The accounting entries required are:

|        |                   | \$'000 | \$'000 |
|--------|-------------------|--------|--------|
| DEBIT  | Retained earnings | 4,000  |        |
| CREDIT | Provisions        |        | 4,000  |

*Leasehold property*

In this case the company has a present obligation to incur expenditure as a result of a past event (the creation of the swimming pool). Under IAS 37 **a provision should be recognised for the full restoration cost** of \$4 million. It is not possible to build up the provision over ten years as the directors propose.

Because the swimming pool represents access to future economic benefits, the future cost also represents an **asset** and this **should be recognised**. The asset will be depreciated at 10% per annum.

The carrying value of the leased building is \$19.6 million (\$16 million + \$4 million – \$400,000). This is above the recoverable amount of \$19 million and therefore an impairment loss of \$600,000 should be recognised.

The accounting entries required are:

|        |  | \$'000 | \$'000 |
|--------|--|--------|--------|
| DEBIT  | Non-current assets                         | 4,000  |        |
| CREDIT | Provisions                                 |        | 4,000  |
| DEBIT  | Retained earnings (group retained profits) | 320    |        |
| DEBIT  | Non-controlling interest                   | 80     |        |
| CREDIT | Depreciation (4,000 × 10%)                 |        | 400    |
| DEBIT  | Retained earnings (group retained profits) | 480    |        |
| DEBIT  | Non-controlling interest                   | 120    |        |
| CREDIT | Non-current assets                         |        | 600    |

#### *Owned buildings*

Future repair expenditure does **not** represent a **present obligation** of the company because there has been **no past obligating event**. The repairs relate to the future operations of the company and in theory the expenditure **could be avoided** by selling the buildings. Under IAS 37 no provision can be recognised.

Any loss in service potential of the asset should be reflected in the depreciation charge. If the repairs are necessary to restore the service potential of the asset the expenditure should be capitalised.

#### (iii) **Agreement with subsidiary**

This has several implications for the financial statements. Because two thirds of the inventory remains unsold, the **unrealised intra-group profit** of \$400,000 ( $\frac{2}{3} \times 4.2$  million krona ÷ 1.4 × 20%) **must be eliminated**.

The accounting entries required are:

|        |   | \$'000 | \$'000 |
|--------|---|--------|--------|
| DEBIT  | Retained earnings (group retained profit) | 400    |        |
| CREDIT | Inventory                                 |        | 400    |

In addition, because Planet is a listed company it must comply with the requirements of IAS 32 *Financial instruments: disclosure and presentation* and IAS 39 *Financial instruments: recognition and measurement*. The **forward contract is a derivative financial instrument**. By entering into the contract the company has fixed the price of the inventory and has avoided the effect of changes in the exchange rate. **No exchange gain or loss is recognised** on the transaction. The company is required to **disclose its accounting policy** in respect of hedge accounting, which is to translate its foreign currency assets and liabilities at the forward rate at the date of delivery. It is also required to disclose certain information about the contract, including details of any gains and losses carried forward in the statement of financial position at the year end and the extent to which these are expected to be recognised in the profit or loss in the next accounting period.

Because Planet entered into the contract without incurring any costs, the **book value** and the **fair value** of the forward contract were nil at its inception date. The cost of the inventory to the company was \$3 million ( $4.2 \text{ million} \div 1.4$ ) but by 31 March 20X0 (the settlement date), exchange rates had moved so that the company would only have paid \$2,896,552 for the inventory at the spot rate of 1.45. Therefore the company has made a **loss** of \$103,448. **One third** of this (\$34,482) relates to the **inventory sold** and has effectively been **recognised in the profit or loss for the year**. The **remainder** (\$68,966) is **carried forward in the value of inventory** and will be recognised in the profit or loss in the next accounting period. There is an argument for **reducing this figure by 20%** as this is the amount of the

intra-company profit which is eliminated on consolidation. The amount of the loss to be disclosed is therefore \$55,173.

(iv) **Database**

The issue here is whether the cost of developing the database can be capitalised as an intangible asset. IAS 38 *Intangible assets* **prohibits the recognition** of internally generated brands, mastheads, publishing titles, customer lists and items similar in substance as assets. It could be argued that the database is similar to these items.

However, the expenditure has resulted in a new product which is now generating income for the group. IAS 38 **permits the capitalisation of development costs**, provided that the project meets **certain criteria**. The company must be able to demonstrate the technical feasibility of completing the asset, and the intention and ability to complete the asset and to use or sell it. The company must also be able to demonstrate that the asset will generate probable future economic benefits and that adequate technical, financial and other resources are available to complete the development. It must be possible to measure the expenditure attributable to the asset reliably.

Although the cost of the database is \$6 million, sales of the manual are only expected to generate net revenue of \$4 million. Therefore \$4 million is **the amount of the future economic benefits that will flow to the company** and this is the amount that should be **recognised as an intangible asset**. Because the manual will require substantial revision every four years the development costs should be **amortised over this period**.

The accounting entries required are:

|  |                                   |        |        |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|
|  |                                   | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| DEBIT  | Retained earnings                 | 1,600  |        |
| DEBIT  | Non-controlling interest          | 400    |        |
| CREDIT   | Intangible assets (6,000 – 4,000) |        | 2,000  |
| <i>To write down the development costs to \$4,000</i>    |                                   |        |        |
|  |                                   | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| DEBIT  | Retained earnings                 | 800    |        |
| DEBIT  | Non-controlling interest          | 200    |        |
| CREDIT   | Intangible assets                 |        | 1,000  |
| <i>To amortise the asset over four years (4,000 ÷ 4)</i> |                                   |        |        |

(b) **PLANET**

REVISED GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 30 NOVEMBER 20X2

|  |         |
|--|---------|
|  | \$'000  |
| Non-current assets   |         |
| Property, plant and equipment (76,240 + 4,000 – 600 – 400) | 79,240  |
| Intangible assets (10,360 + 16,000 – 2,000 – 1,000)        | 23,360  |
|  | 102,600 |
| Net current assets (55,800 – 16,000 – 400)                 | 39,400  |
| Total assets less current liabilities                      | 142,000 |
| Equity attributable to owners of the parent                |         |
| Share capital  | 32,200  |
| Share premium  | 10,000  |
| Retained earnings (W)                                      | 47,200  |
|  | 89,400  |
| Non-controlling interest (18,200 – 80 – 120 – 400 – 200)   | 17,400  |
|  | 106,800 |
| Non-current liabilities:                                   |         |
| Long term borrowings                                       | 25,400  |
| Provisions (1,800 + 4,000 + 4,000)                         | 9,800   |
|  | 142,000 |

*Working: retained earnings*

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
|  | \$'000        |
| Draft  | 54,800        |
| Provision for repairs (operating lease)            | (4,000)       |
| Additional depreciation (leased property)          | (320)         |
| Impairment loss (leased property)                  | (480)         |
| Unrealised profit (intra-company sales)            | (400)         |
| Impairment loss (database)                         | (1,600)       |
| Amortisation of development expenditure (database) | (800)         |
|  | <u>47,200</u> |

## 29 Wingit

(a) WINGIT GROUP

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MAY 20X3

|   | \$m          | \$m        |
|---|--------------|------------|
| <i>Cash flow from operating activities</i>                  |              |            |
| Profit before taxation                                      | 723          |            |
| Adjustments for   |              |            |
| Depreciation  | 39           |            |
| Profit on sale of property, plant and equipment             | (15)         |            |
| Net interest payable  | 3            |            |
| Share of profit of associate                                | (83)         |            |
|   | <u>667</u>   |            |
| Increase in inventories (750 – 30 – 588)                    | (132)        |            |
| Increase in trade receivables (660 – 25 – 530 – 17 + 15)    | (103)        |            |
| Increase in trade payables (1,193 – 20 – 913 – 9)           | <u>251</u>   |            |
| Cash generated from operations                              | 683          |            |
| Interest paid (37 – 6 – 9)                                  | (22)         |            |
| Income taxes paid (W2)                                      | <u>(225)</u> |            |
| Net cash from operating activities                          |              | 436        |
| <i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>                 |              |            |
| Interest received (34 + 15 – 17)                            | 32           |            |
| Dividend from associate (W3)                                | 3            |            |
| Acquisition of subsidiary net of cash (17 – 35)             | 18           |            |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment (278 – 60 – 100)  | (118)        |            |
| Proceeds of sale of property, plant and equipment (30 + 15) | 45           |            |
| Purchase of trade investments (W4)                          | <u>(625)</u> |            |
| Net cash used in investing activities                       |              | (645)      |
| <i>Cash flows from financing activities</i>                 |              |            |
| Dividends paid (W5)   | (121)        |            |
| Dividends paid to non-controlling interest (W6)             | (17)         |            |
| Proceeds from exercise of options                           | 20           |            |
| Proceeds from long term borrowing (W7)                      | <u>232</u>   |            |
| Net cash from financing activities                          |              | 114        |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents                   |              | (95)       |
| <i>Cash and cash equivalents at start of period</i>         |              | <u>140</u> |
| <i>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</i>           |              | <u>45</u>  |

# Workings

|   |   |                          |                           |  |              |
|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| 1 | <i>Purchase of subsidiary (proof)</i>           |                          |                           |  | \$m          |
|   | Purchase consideration                          |                          |                           |  | 97           |
|   | Group share of net asset acquired (100 m × 80%) |                          |                           |  | 80           |
|   | Goodwill on acquisition                         |                          |                           |  | <u>17</u>    |
| 2 | <i>Income taxes paid</i>                        |                          |                           |  |              |
|   |   | INCOME TAXES             |                           |  |              |
|   |   | \$m                      |                           |  | \$m          |
|   | Cash paid (bal fig)                             | 225                      | Opening balance           |  | 200          |
|   | Closing balance                                 | 203                      | Tax payable in Regent P/L |  | 30           |
|   |   | <u>428</u>               |                           |  | <u>198</u>   |
|   |   |                          |                           |  | <u>428</u>   |
| 3 | <i>Associate</i>                                |                          |                           |  |              |
|   |   | ASSOCIATE                |                           |  |              |
|   |   | \$m                      |                           |  | \$m          |
|   | Opening balance                                 | 220                      | Cash received (bal fig)   |  | 3            |
|   | P/L – profit                                    | 83                       | Closing balance           |  | 300          |
|   |   | <u>303</u>               |                           |  | <u>303</u>   |
| 4 | <i>Trade investments</i>                        |                          |                           |  |              |
|   |   | TRADE INVESTMENTS        |                           |  |              |
|   |   | \$m                      |                           |  | \$m          |
|   | Opening balance                                 | 50                       |                           |  |              |
|   | Other investments purchased (bal fig)           | 30                       |                           |  |              |
|   | Foreign equity investment                       | 400                      | Closing balance           |  | 480          |
|   |   | <u>480</u>               |                           |  | <u>480</u>   |
|   | Foreign operation – value                       | 400                      |                           |  |              |
|   | Exchange difference                             | 195                      |                           |  |              |
|   | Cash paid                                       | <u>595</u>               |                           |  |              |
|   | Total purchases of investments (30 + 595) = 625 |                          |                           |  |              |
| 5 | <i>Dividends paid</i>                           |                          |                           |  |              |
|   |   | DIVIDENDS                |                           |  |              |
|   |   | \$m                      |                           |  | \$m          |
|   | Cash paid (bal fig)                             | 121                      | Opening balance           |  | 100          |
|   | Closing balance                                 | 105                      | Changes in equity         |  | 126          |
|   |   | <u>226</u>               |                           |  | <u>226</u>   |
| 6 | <i>Non-controlling interest</i>                 |                          |                           |  |              |
|   |   | NON-CONTROLLING INTEREST |                           |  |              |
|   |   | \$m                      |                           |  | \$m          |
|   | Cash paid (bal fig)                             | 17                       | Opening balance           |  | 150          |
|   |   |                          | Regent (100 × 20%)        |  | 20           |
|   | Closing balance                                 | 250                      | P/L                       |  | 97           |
|   |   | <u>267</u>               |                           |  | <u>267</u>   |
| 7 | <i>Long term borrowings</i>                     |                          |                           |  |              |
|   |   | LONG TERM BORROWINGS     |                           |  |              |
|   |   | \$m                      |                           |  | \$m          |
|   | Cash paid                                       | 68                       | Opening balance           |  | 930          |
|   |   |                          | Loan taken out            |  | 300          |
|   | Closing balance                                 | 1,262                    | Bill of exchange          |  | 100          |
|   |   | <u>1,330</u>             |                           |  | <u>1,330</u> |
|   | Loan to finance foreign operation               | 300                      |                           |  |              |
|   | Less loans repaid                               | (68)                     |                           |  |              |
|   | Cash received                                   | <u>232</u>               |                           |  |              |

(b) **Basis of calculating EPS**

Earnings per share is a widely used measure of financial performance. Detailed guidance on its calculation and on presentation and disclosure issues is given in IAS 33 *Earnings per share*.

IAS 33 does not address the issue of **manipulation of the numerator** in the calculation, that is the profit attributable to ordinary shareholders. The directors may manipulate it by **selecting accounting policies** designed generally to boost the earnings figure, and hence the earnings per share.

The **denominator** in the calculation is the number of shares by which the earnings figure is divided. It is defined as the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the period and is **more difficult to manipulate**, although the directors may try, as explained below.

(i) **Government grant**

IAS 20 *Accounting for government grants and disclosure of government assistance* allows two methods of accounting for government grants.

- (1) Net the grant off against the cost of the asset and depreciate the net figure.
- (2) Carry the grant as a **deferred credit** and release it to income over the life of the asset to offset the depreciation charge.

The **directors** justify their treatment of the government grant by reference to a past IASB Discussion Paper. This considered whether a grant should be **credited to income in the period in which it is made** rather than over several periods. However, there has been no discernable progress on that discussion paper and hence we have to apply IAS 20 as it stands.

The grant should therefore be removed from the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. Only \$500,000 ( $\$5\text{m} \div 10 \text{ years}$ ) should be credited to income; the balance of \$4.5m should be shown as a deferred credit or deducted from the cost of the asset.

(ii) **Share issue**

In the calculation of EPS, the directors have used the number of shares in issue when Mr Springer retired from the company (6 million). They have **not taken into account the new issue of shares** made at the initial public offering.

The **number of new shares issued** is one million **plus** the **sponsor's shares** of 100,000. This needs to be **time apportioned** (the shares were in issue for ten months) and **added** to the **denominator** of the EPS calculation.

The treatment of the **issue costs is also incorrect**. IAS 39 states that **transaction costs**, defined as **incremental external costs** directly attributable to an equity transaction, should be **accounted for** as a **deduction from equity**. It was therefore incorrect to credit the value of the shares to profit or loss and likewise incorrect to charge the cash paid as an expense in profit or loss.

The **accounting entries** should have been as follows.

|        |                                 |           |           |
|--------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| DEBIT  | Retained earnings/share premium | \$300,000 |           |
| CREDIT | Cash                            |           | \$180,000 |
|        | Share capital                   |           | \$100,000 |
|        | Share premium                   |           | \$20,000  |

(iii) **Lease**

The lease arrangement includes an unconditional agreement to repurchase the lease. The substance of the transaction is therefore that of a loan secured on the property, rather than a genuine sale. Lease accounting is generally governed by IAS 17 *Leases*, but the *Framework* document and IAS 1 *Presentation of financial statements* stipulate the importance of substance over form.

- (1) The **asset must be shown on the statement of financial position** and the 'sale proceeds' must be shown as a **finance liability**.
- (2) The **profit** on the transaction (\$500,000) needs to be eliminated from the **profit or loss for the year**.
- (3) **Depreciation needs to be charged** on the carrying value.
- (4) The carrying value of the property is the lease consideration of \$4.5m less the profit, ie \$4m.
- (5) Depreciation at 5% per annum is therefore \$200,000.
- (6) **Interest needs to be charged** to the profit or loss, as we have concluded that this is in substance a loan.
- (7) With an effective interest rate of 5.14%, the interest charge is  $\$4.5\text{m} \times 5.14\% = \$231,300$ .

(iv) **Rights issue**

The **rights issue** took place **after the company's year end**. The **proceeds** of the rights issue were **not available** for use **during the accounting period**. It would not therefore be appropriate to adjust EPS to reflect any part of the rights issue.

However, **an adjustment needs to be made for the bonus element** in the **rights issue**, since this is deemed to **affect the number of shares**, and hence **EPS for all accounting periods**.

The bonus element is  $\frac{\text{fair value of share before rights issue}}{\text{theoretical ex rights price}}$

The theoretical ex rights price is:

|                 |          |                      |            |
|-----------------|----------|----------------------|------------|
|                 |          |                      | c          |
| Initial holding | 4        | $\times 200\text{c}$ | 800        |
| Rights issue    | 1        | $\times 160\text{c}$ | 160        |
|                 | <u>5</u> |                      | <u>960</u> |

$$\therefore \text{TERP} = \frac{960}{5} = \$1.92$$

The fair value of the share is \$2.00, therefore the bonus element is:

$$\frac{2.00}{1.92} = \frac{25}{24}$$

The number of shares in the EPS calculation needs to be increased by  $\frac{1}{24}$ .

**Revised EPS calculation**

*Revised earnings*

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
|   | \$'000       |
| Profit per directors                          | 4,800        |
| (1) Government grant taken to deferred income | (5,000)      |
| Credited to income in year                    | 500          |
| (2) Cash paid                                 | 180          |
| Shares issued to sponsor                      | (120)        |
| (3) Profit on 'sale' eliminated               | (500)        |
| Depreciation                                  | (200)        |
| Interest charge                               | (231)        |
|   | <u>(571)</u> |

*Revised number of shares*

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Per directors   | 6,000,000        |
| Additional shares issued                                  |                  |
| $1,100,000 \times \frac{10}{12}$                          | <u>916,667</u>   |
|   | 6,916,667        |
| Bonus element: $6,916,667 \times \frac{1}{24}$            | <u>288,194</u>   |
|   | <u>7,204,861</u> |
| $\therefore$ Loss per share $\frac{(571,000)}{7,204,861}$ | = (7.9c)         |

(c) **Ethical matters**

- (i) It is not always easy to determine whether creative accounting of this kind is **deliberate or whether it arises from ignorance or oversight**. The **assessment** of whether directors have acted **ethically** is often a matter of the exercise of **professional** judgement. In **practice**, it is important to act **fairly** and **tactfully** and not jump to unwarranted conclusions.
- (ii) In factual terms when the correct accounting treatment is used, an earnings per share of **80c is converted into a loss per share of 7.9c**. Since the directors are entitled to a **cash bonus** for an EPS of above 50c, there would appear to be a strong **incentive** for them to select **accounting policies** designed to **boost it**.
- (iii) The directors' explanation for their treatment of the **government grant** does **not stand up to scrutiny**. IAS 20 is not a complicated accounting standard and has been in force for many years. The treatment proposed in the Discussion Paper stage has not been driven forward by the IASB.
- (iv) The treatment of the **issue of shares** may simply reflect **lack of knowledge** on the part of directors, rather than unethical accounting. **When corrected**, the **earnings figure is actually increased**, although the **number of shares is also increased**.
- (v) The treatment of **issue costs** is a **complex** area and can often be **misunderstood**. It is more likely, therefore, that the **directors** were **confused** about the appropriate treatment and should be allowed the benefit of any doubt.
- (vi) Regarding the **sale and repurchase agreement**, again it is difficult to assess whether this off balance sheet scheme was deliberate. Whether it was or not, the requirements of *Framework* document have been extant for some time, and the directors would reasonably be expected to be aware of the importance of **substance over form**.
- (vii) The **failure to include the bonus element** of the rights issue after the reporting period in the calculation of the number of shares may be deliberate, but it is more likely to be an **error** or oversight.

**Conclusion**

- (a) In practice unethical intent is difficult to prove. The best approach should be a proactive, preventative one, rather than letting matters get out of hand.
- (b) On the facts of the case, **accounting standards have not been followed**, and generally in a manner **likely to boost EPS**.
- (c) Accusations of fraud should not be made hastily without taking legal advice.
- (d) As suggested in (i) above, in practice there should be internal controls to ensure that the **directors should be made aware** of their **responsibility** for the accuracy and fairness of the financial statements and their **obligation to apply accounting standards**.



# Mathematical tables



# Present value table

Present value of £1 =  $(1+r)^{-n}$  where  $r$  = interest rate,  $n$  = number of periods until payment or receipt.

| Periods |       | Discount rates (r) |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| (n)     | 1%    | 2%                 | 3%    | 4%    | 5%    | 6%    | 7%    | 8%    | 9%    | 10%   |
| 1       | 0.990 | 0.980              | 0.971 | 0.962 | 0.952 | 0.943 | 0.935 | 0.926 | 0.917 | 0.909 |
| 2       | 0.980 | 0.961              | 0.943 | 0.925 | 0.907 | 0.890 | 0.873 | 0.857 | 0.842 | 0.826 |
| 3       | 0.971 | 0.942              | 0.915 | 0.889 | 0.864 | 0.840 | 0.816 | 0.794 | 0.772 | 0.751 |
| 4       | 0.961 | 0.924              | 0.888 | 0.855 | 0.823 | 0.792 | 0.763 | 0.735 | 0.708 | 0.683 |
| 5       | 0.951 | 0.906              | 0.863 | 0.822 | 0.784 | 0.747 | 0.713 | 0.681 | 0.650 | 0.621 |
| 6       | 0.942 | 0.888              | 0.837 | 0.790 | 0.746 | 0.705 | 0.666 | 0.630 | 0.596 | 0.564 |
| 7       | 0.933 | 0.871              | 0.813 | 0.760 | 0.711 | 0.665 | 0.623 | 0.583 | 0.547 | 0.513 |
| 8       | 0.923 | 0.853              | 0.789 | 0.731 | 0.677 | 0.627 | 0.582 | 0.540 | 0.502 | 0.467 |
| 9       | 0.914 | 0.837              | 0.766 | 0.703 | 0.645 | 0.592 | 0.544 | 0.500 | 0.460 | 0.424 |
| 10      | 0.905 | 0.820              | 0.744 | 0.676 | 0.614 | 0.558 | 0.508 | 0.463 | 0.422 | 0.386 |
| 11      | 0.896 | 0.804              | 0.722 | 0.650 | 0.585 | 0.527 | 0.475 | 0.429 | 0.388 | 0.350 |
| 12      | 0.887 | 0.788              | 0.701 | 0.625 | 0.557 | 0.497 | 0.444 | 0.397 | 0.356 | 0.319 |
| 13      | 0.879 | 0.773              | 0.681 | 0.601 | 0.530 | 0.469 | 0.415 | 0.368 | 0.326 | 0.290 |
| 14      | 0.870 | 0.758              | 0.661 | 0.577 | 0.505 | 0.442 | 0.388 | 0.340 | 0.299 | 0.263 |
| 15      | 0.861 | 0.743              | 0.642 | 0.555 | 0.481 | 0.417 | 0.362 | 0.315 | 0.275 | 0.239 |
| 16      | 0.853 | 0.728              | 0.623 | 0.534 | 0.458 | 0.394 | 0.339 | 0.292 | 0.252 | 0.218 |
| 17      | 0.844 | 0.714              | 0.605 | 0.513 | 0.436 | 0.371 | 0.317 | 0.270 | 0.231 | 0.198 |
| 18      | 0.836 | 0.700              | 0.587 | 0.494 | 0.416 | 0.350 | 0.296 | 0.250 | 0.212 | 0.180 |
| 19      | 0.828 | 0.686              | 0.570 | 0.475 | 0.396 | 0.331 | 0.277 | 0.232 | 0.194 | 0.164 |
| 20      | 0.820 | 0.673              | 0.554 | 0.456 | 0.377 | 0.312 | 0.258 | 0.215 | 0.178 | 0.149 |

| Periods |       | Discount rates (r) |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| (n)     | 11%   | 12%                | 13%   | 14%   | 15%   | 16%   | 17%   | 18%   | 19%   | 20%   |
| 1       | 0.901 | 0.893              | 0.885 | 0.877 | 0.870 | 0.862 | 0.855 | 0.847 | 0.840 | 0.833 |
| 2       | 0.812 | 0.797              | 0.783 | 0.769 | 0.756 | 0.743 | 0.731 | 0.718 | 0.706 | 0.694 |
| 3       | 0.731 | 0.712              | 0.693 | 0.675 | 0.658 | 0.641 | 0.624 | 0.609 | 0.593 | 0.579 |
| 4       | 0.659 | 0.636              | 0.613 | 0.592 | 0.572 | 0.552 | 0.534 | 0.516 | 0.499 | 0.482 |
| 5       | 0.593 | 0.567              | 0.543 | 0.519 | 0.497 | 0.476 | 0.456 | 0.437 | 0.419 | 0.402 |
| 6       | 0.535 | 0.507              | 0.480 | 0.456 | 0.432 | 0.410 | 0.390 | 0.370 | 0.352 | 0.335 |
| 7       | 0.482 | 0.452              | 0.425 | 0.400 | 0.376 | 0.354 | 0.333 | 0.314 | 0.296 | 0.279 |
| 8       | 0.434 | 0.404              | 0.376 | 0.351 | 0.327 | 0.305 | 0.285 | 0.266 | 0.249 | 0.233 |
| 9       | 0.391 | 0.361              | 0.333 | 0.308 | 0.284 | 0.263 | 0.243 | 0.225 | 0.209 | 0.194 |
| 10      | 0.352 | 0.322              | 0.295 | 0.270 | 0.247 | 0.227 | 0.208 | 0.191 | 0.176 | 0.162 |
| 11      | 0.317 | 0.287              | 0.261 | 0.237 | 0.215 | 0.195 | 0.178 | 0.162 | 0.148 | 0.135 |
| 12      | 0.286 | 0.257              | 0.231 | 0.208 | 0.187 | 0.168 | 0.152 | 0.137 | 0.124 | 0.112 |
| 13      | 0.258 | 0.229              | 0.204 | 0.182 | 0.163 | 0.145 | 0.130 | 0.116 | 0.104 | 0.093 |
| 14      | 0.232 | 0.205              | 0.181 | 0.160 | 0.141 | 0.125 | 0.111 | 0.099 | 0.088 | 0.078 |
| 15      | 0.209 | 0.183              | 0.160 | 0.140 | 0.123 | 0.108 | 0.095 | 0.084 | 0.074 | 0.065 |
| 16      | 0.188 | 0.163              | 0.141 | 0.123 | 0.107 | 0.093 | 0.081 | 0.071 | 0.062 | 0.054 |
| 17      | 0.170 | 0.146              | 0.125 | 0.108 | 0.093 | 0.080 | 0.069 | 0.060 | 0.052 | 0.045 |
| 18      | 0.153 | 0.130              | 0.111 | 0.095 | 0.081 | 0.069 | 0.059 | 0.051 | 0.044 | 0.038 |
| 19      | 0.138 | 0.116              | 0.098 | 0.083 | 0.070 | 0.060 | 0.051 | 0.043 | 0.037 | 0.031 |
| 20      | 0.124 | 0.104              | 0.087 | 0.073 | 0.061 | 0.051 | 0.043 | 0.037 | 0.031 | 0.026 |

## Cumulative present value table

This table shows the present value of £1 per annum, receivable or payable at the end of each year for  $n$  years.

| Periods |        | Discount rates (r) |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |
|---------|--------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| (n)     | 1%     | 2%                 | 3%     | 4%     | 5%     | 6%     | 7%     | 8%    | 9%    | 10%   |
| 1       | 0.990  | 0.980              | 0.971  | 0.962  | 0.952  | 0.943  | 0.935  | 0.926 | 0.917 | 0.909 |
| 2       | 1.970  | 1.942              | 1.913  | 1.886  | 1.859  | 1.833  | 1.808  | 1.783 | 1.759 | 1.736 |
| 3       | 2.941  | 2.884              | 2.829  | 2.775  | 2.723  | 2.673  | 2.624  | 2.577 | 2.531 | 2.487 |
| 4       | 3.902  | 3.808              | 3.717  | 3.630  | 3.546  | 3.465  | 3.387  | 3.312 | 3.240 | 3.170 |
| 5       | 4.853  | 4.713              | 4.580  | 4.452  | 4.329  | 4.212  | 4.100  | 3.993 | 3.890 | 3.791 |
| 6       | 5.795  | 5.601              | 5.417  | 5.242  | 5.076  | 4.917  | 4.767  | 4.623 | 4.486 | 4.355 |
| 7       | 6.728  | 6.472              | 6.230  | 6.002  | 5.786  | 5.582  | 5.389  | 5.206 | 5.033 | 4.868 |
| 8       | 7.652  | 7.325              | 7.020  | 6.733  | 6.463  | 6.210  | 5.971  | 5.747 | 5.535 | 5.335 |
| 9       | 8.566  | 8.162              | 7.786  | 7.435  | 7.108  | 6.802  | 6.515  | 6.247 | 5.995 | 5.759 |
| 10      | 9.471  | 8.983              | 8.530  | 8.111  | 7.722  | 7.360  | 7.024  | 6.710 | 6.418 | 6.145 |
| 11      | 10.37  | 9.787              | 9.253  | 8.760  | 8.306  | 7.887  | 7.499  | 7.139 | 6.805 | 6.495 |
| 12      | 11.26  | 10.58              | 9.954  | 9.385  | 8.863  | 8.384  | 7.943  | 7.536 | 7.161 | 6.814 |
| 13      | 12.13  | 11.35              | 10.63  | 9.986  | 9.394  | 8.853  | 8.358  | 7.904 | 7.487 | 7.103 |
| 14      | 13.00  | 12.11              | 11.30  | 10.56  | 9.899  | 9.295  | 8.745  | 8.244 | 7.786 | 7.367 |
| 15      | 13.87  | 12.85              | 11.94  | 11.12  | 10.38  | 9.712  | 9.108  | 8.559 | 8.061 | 7.606 |
| 16      | 14.718 | 13.578             | 12.561 | 11.652 | 10.838 | 10.106 | 9.447  | 8.851 | 8.313 | 7.824 |
| 17      | 15.562 | 14.292             | 13.166 | 12.166 | 11.274 | 10.477 | 9.763  | 9.122 | 8.544 | 8.022 |
| 18      | 16.398 | 14.992             | 13.754 | 12.659 | 11.690 | 10.828 | 10.059 | 9.372 | 8.756 | 8.201 |
| 19      | 17.226 | 15.678             | 14.324 | 13.134 | 12.085 | 11.158 | 10.336 | 9.604 | 8.950 | 8.365 |
| 20      | 18.046 | 16.351             | 14.877 | 13.590 | 12.462 | 11.470 | 10.594 | 9.818 | 9.129 | 8.514 |

| Periods |       | Discount rates (r) |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---------|-------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| (n)     | 11%   | 12%                | 13%   | 14%   | 15%   | 16%   | 17%   | 18%   | 19%   | 20%   |
| 1       | 0.901 | 0.893              | 0.885 | 0.877 | 0.870 | 0.862 | 0.855 | 0.847 | 0.840 | 0.833 |
| 2       | 1.713 | 1.690              | 1.668 | 1.647 | 1.626 | 1.605 | 1.585 | 1.566 | 1.547 | 1.528 |
| 3       | 2.444 | 2.402              | 2.361 | 2.322 | 2.283 | 2.246 | 2.210 | 2.174 | 2.140 | 2.106 |
| 4       | 3.102 | 3.037              | 2.974 | 2.914 | 2.855 | 2.798 | 2.743 | 2.690 | 2.639 | 2.589 |
| 5       | 3.696 | 3.605              | 3.517 | 3.433 | 3.352 | 3.274 | 3.199 | 3.127 | 3.058 | 2.991 |
| 6       | 4.231 | 4.111              | 3.998 | 3.889 | 3.784 | 3.685 | 3.589 | 3.498 | 3.410 | 3.326 |
| 7       | 4.712 | 4.564              | 4.423 | 4.288 | 4.160 | 4.039 | 3.922 | 3.812 | 3.706 | 3.605 |
| 8       | 5.146 | 4.968              | 4.799 | 4.639 | 4.487 | 4.344 | 4.207 | 4.078 | 3.954 | 3.837 |
| 9       | 5.537 | 5.328              | 5.132 | 4.946 | 4.772 | 4.607 | 4.451 | 4.303 | 4.163 | 4.031 |
| 10      | 5.889 | 5.650              | 5.426 | 5.216 | 5.019 | 4.833 | 4.659 | 4.494 | 4.339 | 4.192 |
| 11      | 6.207 | 5.938              | 5.687 | 5.453 | 5.234 | 5.029 | 4.836 | 4.656 | 4.486 | 4.327 |
| 12      | 6.492 | 6.194              | 5.918 | 5.660 | 5.421 | 5.197 | 4.988 | 4.793 | 4.611 | 4.439 |
| 13      | 6.750 | 6.424              | 6.122 | 5.842 | 5.583 | 5.342 | 5.118 | 4.910 | 4.715 | 4.533 |
| 14      | 6.982 | 6.628              | 6.302 | 6.002 | 5.724 | 5.468 | 5.229 | 5.008 | 4.802 | 4.611 |
| 15      | 7.191 | 6.811              | 6.462 | 6.142 | 5.847 | 5.575 | 5.324 | 5.092 | 4.876 | 4.675 |
| 16      | 7.379 | 6.974              | 6.604 | 6.265 | 5.954 | 5.668 | 5.405 | 5.162 | 4.938 | 4.730 |
| 17      | 7.549 | 7.120              | 6.729 | 6.373 | 6.047 | 5.749 | 5.475 | 5.222 | 4.990 | 4.775 |
| 18      | 7.702 | 7.250              | 6.840 | 6.467 | 6.128 | 5.818 | 5.534 | 5.273 | 5.033 | 4.812 |
| 19      | 7.839 | 7.366              | 6.938 | 6.550 | 6.198 | 5.877 | 5.584 | 5.316 | 5.070 | 4.843 |
| 20      | 7.963 | 7.469              | 7.025 | 6.623 | 6.259 | 5.929 | 5.628 | 5.353 | 5.101 | 4.870 |

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