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SUGGESTED SOLUTION

CA INTERMEDIATE

SUBJECT- AUDIT

Test Code – CIM 8531

BRANCH - () (Date :)

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ANSWER -1

ANSWER -A

Manipulation of Accounts: Detection of manipulation of accounts with a view to presenting a false state of affairs is a task requiring great tact and intelligence because generally management personnel in higher management cadre are associated with this type of fraud and this is perpetrated in methodical way. This type of fraud is generally committed:

(1 MARK)

- (a) to avoid incidence of income-tax or other taxes;
- (b) for declaring a dividend when there are insufficient profits;
- (c) to withhold declaration of dividend even when there is adequate profit (this is often done to manipulate the value of shares in stock market to make it possible for selected persons to acquire shares at a lower cost); and
- (d) for receiving higher remuneration where managerial remuneration is payable by reference to profits.

(4*1 = 4 MARKS)

ANSWER –B

The nature of the comparative information that is presented in an entity's financial statements depends on the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework. There are two different broad approaches to the auditor's reporting responsibilities in respect of such comparative information: corresponding figures and comparative financial statements. The approach to be adopted is often specified by law or regulation but may also be specified in the terms of engagement.

The essential audit reporting differences between the approaches are:

- (a) For corresponding figures, the auditor's opinion on the financial statements refers to the current period only; whereas
- (b) For comparative financial statements, the auditor's opinion refers to each period for which financial statements are presented.

Definition of Comparative information – The amounts and disclosures included in the financial statements in respect of one or more prior periods in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Audit Procedures regarding comparative information

The auditor shall determine whether the financial statements include the comparative information required by the applicable financial reporting framework and whether such information is appropriately classified. For this purpose, the auditor shall evaluate whether:

- (a) The comparative information agrees with the amounts and other disclosures presented in the prior period; and
- (b) The accounting policies reflected in the comparative information are consistent with those applied in the current period or, if there have been changes in accounting policies, whether those changes have been properly accounted for and adequately presented and disclosed.

ANSWER –C

The level of sampling risk that the auditor is willing to accept affects the sample size required. The lower the risk the auditor is willing to accept, the greater the sample size will need to be.

The sample size can be determined by the application of a statistically-based formula or through the exercise of professional judgment. When circumstances are similar, the effect on sample size of factors will be similar regardless of whether a statistical or non-statistical approach is chosen.

Examples of Factors Influencing Sample Size for Tests of Controls: The following are factors that the auditor may consider when determining the sample size for tests of controls. These factors, which need to be considered together, assume the auditor does not modify the nature or timing of tests of controls or otherwise modify the approach to substantive procedures in response to assessed risks.

- ◆ When there is an increase in the extent to which the auditor's risk assessment takes into account relevant controls. The more assurance the auditor intends to obtain from the operating effectiveness of controls, the lower the auditor's assessment of the risk of material misstatement will be, and the larger the sample size will need to be. When the auditor's assessment of the risk of material misstatement at the assertion level includes an expectation of the operating effectiveness of controls, the auditor is required to perform tests of controls. Other things being equal, the greater the reliance the auditor places on the operating effectiveness of controls in the risk assessment, the greater is the extent of the auditor's tests of controls (and therefore, the sample size is increased). Thus, sample size will increase.

- ◆ If there is an increase in the tolerable rate of deviation. Then sample size will decrease, as lower the tolerable rate of deviation, larger the sample size needs to be.

- ◆ When there is an increase in the expected rate of deviation of the population to be tested then sample size will increase, as higher the expected rate of deviation, larger the sample size needs to be so that the auditor is in a position to make a reasonable estimate of the actual rate of deviation. Factors relevant to the auditor's consideration of the expected rate of deviation include the auditor's understanding of the business (in particular, risk assessment procedures undertaken to obtain an understanding of internal control), changes in personnel or in internal control, the results of audit procedures applied in prior periods and the results of other audit procedures. High expected control deviation rates ordinarily warrant little, if any, reduction of the assessed risk of material misstatement.

- ◆ An increase in the auditor's desired level of assurance that the tolerable rate of deviation is not exceeded by the actual rate of deviation in the population will increase the sample size. Thus, the greater the level of assurance that the auditor desires that the results of the sample are in fact indicative of the actual incidence of deviation in the population, the larger the sample size needs to be.

- ◆ In case of large populations, the actual size of the population has little, if any, effect on sample size. For small populations however, audit sampling may not be as efficient as alternative means of obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence. Therefore, there will be negligible effect on sample size due to increase in the number of sampling units in the population.

ANSWER -2

ANSWER –A

If analytical procedures performed in accordance with SA 520 identify fluctuations or relationships that are inconsistent with other relevant information or that differ from expected values by a significant amount, the auditor shall investigate such differences by :

- (i) **Inquiring of management and obtaining appropriate audit evidence relevant to management’s responses** : Audit evidence relevant to management’s responses may be obtained by evaluating those responses taking into account the auditor’s understanding of the entity and its environment, and with other audit evidence obtained during the course of the audit.
- (ii) **Performing other audit procedures as necessary in the circumstances** : The need to perform other audit procedures may arise when, for example, management is unable to provide an explanation, or the explanation, together with the audit evidence obtained relevant to management’s response, is not considered adequate.

(2*2 = 4 MARKS)

ANSWER –B

Problematic or unusual relationships between the auditor and management, including:

1. Denial of access to records, facilities, certain employees, customers, vendors, or others from whom audit evidence might be sought.
2. Undue time pressures imposed by management to resolve complex or contentious issues.
3. Complaints by management about the conduct of the audit or management intimidation of engagement team members, particularly in connection with the auditor’s critical assessment of audit evidence or in the resolution of potential disagreements with management.
4. Unusual delays by the entity in providing requested information.
5. Unwillingness to facilitate auditor access to key electronic files for testing through the use of computer-assisted audit techniques.
6. Denial of access to key IT operations staff and facilities, including security, operations, and systems development personnel.
7. An unwillingness to add or revise disclosures in the financial statements to make them more complete and understandable.
8. An unwillingness to address identified deficiencies in internal control on a timely basis.
9. Unwillingness by management to permit the auditor to meet privately with those charged with governance
10. Accounting Policy that appears to be variance with industry norms
11. Frequent changes in accounting estimates that do not appear to result from changed circumstances
12. Tolerance of variations in the entity’s code of conduct

ANSWER -3

ANSWER –A

The auditor shall evaluate whether the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.

This evaluation shall include consideration of the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, including indicators of possible bias in management's judgments.

Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Accounting Practices

1. Management makes a number of judgments about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
2. SA 260 (Revised) contains a discussion of the qualitative aspects of accounting practices.
3. In considering the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, the auditor may become aware of possible bias in management's judgments. The auditor may conclude that lack of neutrality together with uncorrected misstatements causes the financial statements to be materially misstated. Indicators of a lack of neutrality include the following:
 - (i) The selective correction of misstatements brought to management's attention during the audit
 - (ii) Possible management bias in the making of accounting estimates.
4. SA 540 addresses possible management bias in making accounting estimates.

Indicators of possible management bias do not constitute misstatements for purposes of drawing conclusions on the reasonableness of individual accounting estimates. They may, however, affect the auditor's evaluation of whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement.

ANSWER –B

Stratification and Value-Weighted Selection: In considering the characteristics of the population from which the sample will be drawn, the auditor may determine that stratification or value-weighted selection technique is appropriate. SA 530 provides guidance to the auditor on the use of stratification and value-weighted sampling techniques.

Stratification: Audit efficiency may be improved if the auditor stratifies a population by dividing it into discrete sub-populations which have an identifying characteristic. The objective of stratification is to reduce the variability of items within each stratum and therefore allow sample size to be reduced without increasing sampling risk.

When performing tests of details, the population is often stratified by monetary value. This allows greater audit effort to be directed to the larger value items, as these items may contain the greatest potential misstatement in terms of overstatement. Similarly, a population may be stratified according to a particular characteristic that indicates a higher risk of misstatement, **for example, when testing the allowance for doubtful accounts in the valuation of accounts receivable, balances may be stratified by age.**

The results of audit procedures applied to a sample of items within a stratum can only be projected to the items that make up that stratum. To draw a conclusion on the entire

population, the auditor will need to consider the risk of material misstatement in relation to whatever other strata make up the entire population.

For example, 20% of the items in a population may make up 90% of the value of an account balance. The auditor may decide to examine a sample of these items. The auditor evaluates the results of this sample and reaches a conclusion on the 90% of value separately from the remaining 10% (on which a further sample or other means of gathering audit evidence will be used ,or which may be considered immaterial).

If a class of transactions or account balance has been divided into strata, the misstatement is projected for each stratum separately. Projected misstatements for each stratum are then combined when considering the possible effect of misstatements on the total class of transactions or account balance.

Value-Weighted Selection: When performing tests of details it may be efficient to identify the sampling unit as the individual monetary units that make up the population. Having selected specific monetary units from within the population, **for example, the accounts receivable balance, the auditor may then examine the particular items, for example, individual balances, that contain those monetary units.** One benefit of this approach to defining the sampling unit is that audit effort is directed to the larger value items because they have a greater chance of selection ,and can result in smaller sample sizes.

This approach may be used in conjunction with the systematic method of sample selection and is most efficient when selecting items using random selection.

(5 MARKS)

ANSWER -4

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. A
5. C
6. C
7. D
8. D
9. C
10. A