

Fundamentals Level – Skills Module

Audit and Assurance (United Kingdom)

Thursday 14 June 2012



Time allowed

Reading and planning: 15 minutes

Writing: 3 hours

ALL FIVE questions are compulsory and MUST be attempted.

Do NOT open this paper until instructed by the supervisor.

During reading and planning time only the question paper may be annotated. You must NOT write in your answer booklet until instructed by the supervisor.

This question paper must not be removed from the examination hall.

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Paper F8 (UK)

ACCA

ALL FIVE questions are compulsory and MUST be attempted

- 1** Pear International Ltd (Pear) is a manufacturer of electrical equipment. It has factories across the country and its customer base includes retailers as well as individuals, to whom direct sales are made through their website. The company's year end is 30 September 2012. You are an audit supervisor of Apple & Co and are currently reviewing documentation of Pear's internal control in preparation for the interim audit.

Pear's website allows individuals to order goods directly, and full payment is taken in advance. Currently the website is not integrated into the inventory system and inventory levels are not checked at the time when orders are placed.

Goods are despatched via local couriers; however, they do not always record customer signatures as proof that the customer has received the goods. Over the past 12 months there have been customer complaints about the delay between sales orders and receipt of goods. Pear has investigated these and found that, in each case, the sales order had been entered into the sales system correctly but was not forwarded to the despatch department for fulfilling.

Pear's retail customers undergo credit checks prior to being accepted and credit limits are set accordingly by sales ledger clerks. These customers place their orders through one of the sales team, who decides on sales discount levels.

Raw materials used in the manufacturing process are purchased from a wide range of suppliers. As a result of staff changes in the purchase ledger department, supplier statement reconciliations are no longer performed. Additionally, changes to supplier details in the purchase ledger master file can be undertaken by purchase ledger clerks as well as supervisors.

In the past six months Pear has changed part of its manufacturing process and as a result some new equipment has been purchased, however, there are considerable levels of plant and equipment which are now surplus to requirement. Purchase requisitions for all new equipment have been authorised by production supervisors and little has been done to reduce the surplus of old equipment.

Required:

(a) In respect of the internal control of Pear International Ltd:

- (i) Identify and explain FIVE deficiencies;**
- (ii) Recommend a control to address each of these deficiencies; and**
- (iii) Describe a test of control Apple & Co would perform to assess if each of these controls is operating effectively.** (15 marks)

(b) Describe substantive procedures you should perform at the year end to confirm each of the following for plant and equipment:

- (i) Additions; and**
- (ii) Disposals.** (4 marks)

- (c)** Pear's finance director has expressed an interest in Apple & Co performing other review engagements in addition to the external audit; however, he is unsure how much assurance would be gained via these engagements and how this differs to the assurance provided by an external audit.

Required:

Identify and explain the level of assurance provided by an external audit and other review engagements. (3 marks)

Pear's directors are considering establishing an internal audit department next year, and the finance director has asked about the differences between internal audit and external audit and what impact, if any, establishing an internal audit department would have on future external audits performed by Apple & Co.

Required:

(d) Distinguish between internal audit and external audit. (4 marks)

(e) Explain the potential impact on the work performed by Apple & Co during the interim and final audits, if Pear International Ltd was to establish an internal audit department. (4 marks)

(30 marks)

- 2 (a) ISA 300 (UK and Ireland) *Planning an audit of financial statements* provides guidance to assist auditors in planning an audit.

Required:

Explain the benefits of audit planning. (4 marks)

- (b) ISA 530 (UK and Ireland) *Audit sampling* provides guidance on methods for selecting a sample of items for testing.

Required:

Identify and explain THREE methods of selecting a sample. (3 marks)

- (c) **Describe the three types of modified audit opinions.** (3 marks)

(10 marks)

- 3 (a) **Explain the external auditors' responsibilities in relation to the prevention and detection of fraud and error.** (4 marks)

You are the audit manager of Currant & Co and you are planning the audit of Orange Financials Ltd (Orange), who specialise in the provision of loans and financial advice to individuals and companies. Currant & Co has audited Orange for many years.

The directors are planning to list Orange on the London stock exchange within the next few months and have asked if the engagement partner can attend the meetings with potential investors. In addition, as the finance director of Orange is likely to be quite busy with the listing, he has asked if Currant & Co can produce the financial statements for the current year.

During the year, the assistant finance director of Orange left and joined Currant & Co as a partner. It has been suggested that due to his familiarity with Orange, he should be appointed to provide an independent partner review for the audit.

Once Orange obtains its stock exchange listing it will require several assignments to be undertaken, for example, obtaining advice about corporate governance best practice. Currant & Co is very keen to be appointed to these engagements, however, Orange has implied that in order to gain this work Currant & Co needs to complete the external audit quickly and with minimal questions/issues.

The finance director has informed you that once the stock exchange listing has been completed, he would like the engagement team to attend a weekend away at a luxury hotel with his team, as a thank you for all their hard work. In addition, he has offered a senior member of the engagement team a short-term loan at a significantly reduced interest rate.

Required:

- (b) (i) **Explain SIX ethical threats which may affect the independence of Currant & Co's audit of Orange Financials Ltd; and**
(ii) **For each threat explain how it might be reduced to an acceptable level.** (12 marks)

- (c) Orange is aware that subsequent to the London stock exchange listing it will need to establish an audit committee and has asked for some advice in relation to this.

Required:

Explain the benefits to Orange of establishing an audit committee. (4 marks)

(20 marks)

- 4 (a) (i) **Identify and explain FOUR financial statement assertions relevant to account balances at the year end; and**
(ii) **For each identified assertion, describe a substantive procedure relevant to the audit of year-end inventory.** (8 marks)

- (b) Pineapple Beach Hotel Ltd (Pineapple) operates a hotel providing accommodation, leisure facilities and restaurants. Its year end was 30 April 2012. You are the audit senior of Berry & Co and are currently preparing the audit programmes for the year end audit of Pineapple. You are reviewing the notes of last week's meeting between the audit manager and finance director where two material issues were discussed.

Depreciation

Pineapple incurred significant capital expenditure during the year on updating the leisure facilities for the hotel. The finance director has proposed that the new leisure equipment should be depreciated over 10 years using the straight-line method.

Food poisoning

Pineapple's directors received correspondence in March from a group of customers who attended a wedding at the hotel. They have alleged that they suffered severe food poisoning from food eaten at the hotel and are claiming substantial damages. Pineapple's lawyers have received the claim and believe that the lawsuit against the company is unlikely to be successful.

Required:

Describe substantive procedures to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence in relation to the above two issues.

Note: The total marks will be split equally between each issue. (8 marks)

- (c) **List and explain the purpose of FOUR items that should be included on every working paper prepared by the audit team.** (4 marks)

(20 marks)

5 (a) Explain the three stages of an audit when analytical procedures can be used by the auditor. (3 marks)

You are the audit manager of Kiwi & Co and you have been provided with financial statements extracts and the following information about your client, Strawberry Kitchen Designs Ltd (Strawberry), who is a kitchen manufacturer. The company's year end is 30 April 2012.

Strawberry has recently been experiencing trading difficulties, as its major customer who owes £0.6m to Strawberry has ceased trading, and it is unlikely any of this will be received. However, the balance is included within the financial statements extracts below. The sales director has recently left Strawberry and has yet to be replaced.

The monthly cash flow has shown a net cash outflow for the last two months of the financial year and is forecast as negative for the forthcoming financial year. As a result of this, the company has been slow in paying its suppliers and some are threatening legal action to recover the sums owing.

Due to its financial difficulties, Strawberry missed a loan repayment and, as a result of this breach in the loan covenants, the bank has asked that the loan of £4.8m be repaid in full within six months. The directors have decided that in order to conserve cash, no final dividend will be paid in 2012.

Financial statements extracts for year ended 30 April:

	DRAFT 2012 £m	ACTUAL 2011 £m
Current Assets		
Inventory	3.4	1.6
Receivables	1.4	2.2
Cash	–	1.2
Current Liabilities		
Trade payables	1.9	0.9
Overdraft	0.8	–
Loans	4.8	0.2

Required:

- (b) Explain the potential indicators that Strawberry Kitchen Designs Ltd is not a going concern. (6 marks)**
- (c) Describe the audit procedures that you should perform in assessing whether or not the company is a going concern. (6 marks)**
- (d) Having performed the going concern audit procedures, you have serious concerns in relation to the going concern status of Strawberry. The finance director has informed you that as the cash flow issues are short term he does not propose to make any amendments to the financial statements.**

Required:

- (i) State Kiwi & Co's responsibility for reporting on going concern to the directors of Strawberry Kitchen Designs Ltd; and (2 marks)**
- (ii) If the directors refuse to amend the financial statements, describe the impact on the audit report. (3 marks)**

(20 marks)

End of Question Paper