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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Teacher and student questions for the pilot survey Questions for teacher interview - Pilot

Can you tell me what it is you like best about teaching this unit?

What are some of your past experiences in teaching, either this subject or another?

How helpful do you find the curriculum?

What resources do you give your students at the start of the semester when they first attend class? Perhaps you could identify any that are mandatory to hand out.

What type of assessments do you give the students?

Do you feel you have freedom and control over what you teach?

What are your perceptions about a good teacher?

Does the size of your class make any difference to the way you teach?

Do you feel that your teaching in this unit is valued by ICMS?

Are there any other issues you feel you would like to comment upon?

Questions for student interviews - Pilot

You are now in your second year of your course at ICMS. Tell me about some of your past experiences of learning in this program.

What sort of things do you do outside the classroom to help your learning?

In the past, if you did not understand something, what did you do?

What do you do to prepare for examinations?

What do you like best - exams or home assignments?

Can you tell me how you go about learning a new unit? What things do you do in lectures to help your learning?

What do you expect this unit in your course to be all about?

Have you been given the learning outcomes for Managerial Accounting?

What are the things you focus on when first taking a new unit?

Will you use the text book?

Appendix 2 – Teacher and student questions – main study

Teacher questions - main study

Question 1 Can you tell me what you understand 'curriculum' to be about?

Question 2 Now what about Internal Control Principles curriculum?

Question 3 What resources do you have for teaching Internal Control Principles?

Question 4 How do you think the students understand 'curriculum'?

Question 5 How helpful do you find the 'curriculum'?

Question 6 What resources do you give your students at the start of the semester when they first attend class?

Question 7 Can you identify any resources that are mandatory to hand out to students?

Question 8 What do you understand teaching is all about?

Question 9 What are your perceptions of a good teacher?

Question 10 What role does teaching play in the curriculum? Question 11 What is the role of assessment in your curriculum?

Question 12 Do you feel that your teaching is valued by TAFE?

Question 13 Do you feel that you have freedom and control over what you teach?

Question 14 Could you summarise for me what you understand curriculum is?

Question 15 How do you think students learn best?

Question 16 What text book do you use?

Student questions - main study

Question 1 What do you expect to learn from this unit?

Question 2 What sort of learning materials have you been given?

Question 3 How have the materials you have been given helped you form your views on this unit?

Question 4 If you do not understand something in class what do you do?

Question 5 How will you know when you have learnt something?

Question 6 What things do you do to prepare for exams?

Question 7 What things do you do in lectures to help your learning?

Question 8 What value do you find in assignment tasks?

Question 9 What things do you do outside the class to help your learning?

Question 10 How will the textbook help your learning?

Question 11 How does the teacher help your learning? Question 12

Can you summarise how you understand what curriculum is?

Question 13

So what are the most important points for your learning?

Question 14

What are the things that you bring from your past learning to help with the present?

Appendix 3 Classroom ATI scores

| ATI analysis | Mean | FT | JT | ІТ | КT | DT | вт |
|--|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Statement | response | | JI | | NI | וט | DI |
| Approach intended to change students' | | | | | | | |
| conceptions through student focus | | | | | | | |
| | 12.50 | 10 | 14 | 10 | 16 | 16 | 9 |
| I feel that the assessment in this subject | | | | | | | |
| should be an opportunity for students to reveal their changed conceptual | | | | | | | |
| understanding of the subject. | | | | | | | |
| | 3.33 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| I encourage students to restructure their | | | | | | | |
| existing knowledge in terms of the new way | | | | | | | |
| of thinking about the subject that they will develop. | | | | | | | |
| develop. | 3.17 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| I feel that it is better for students in this | | | | | | | |
| subject to generate their own notes rather | | | | | | | |
| than always copy mine | 2.83 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | : |
| I feel a lot of teaching time in this subject | | | | | | | |
| should be used to question students' ideas | 3.17 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 4 | : |
| Strategy used to change students' conceptions | 0.11 | Ū | 1 | - | | | |
| through student focus | 10.17 | 5 | 12 | 9 | 14 | 13 | |
| In my class/tutorial for this subject 1 try to | 10.17 | 5 | 12 | 5 | 14 | 15 | |
| develop a conversation with students about | | | | | | | |
| the topics we are studying. | 0.00 | | | 0 | | | |
| We take time out in classes so that the | 3.00 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| students can discuss, among themselves, the | | | | | | | |
| difficulties that they encounter studying this | | | | | | | |
| subject | | | | | | | |
| the second s | 2.67 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | i. |
| In lectures for this subject, I use difficult or | | | | | | | |
| undefined examples to provoke debate. | 1.83 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | |
| Formal teaching time is made available in this | | | | | | | |
| subject for students to discuss their changing | | | | | | | |
| understanding of the subject. | 2.67 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | : |
| Approach intended to transmit information | | | | | | | |
| through teacher focus | 14.17 | 16 | 14 | 17 | 11 | 12 | 1 |
| I feel it is important that this subject should be | | | | | | | |
| completely described in terms of specific | | | | | | | |
| objectives relating to what students have to | | | | | | | |
| know for formal assessment items | 4.33 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | |
| I feel it is important to present a lot of facts in | 4.00 | 4 | - | - | 0 | 0 | |
| classes so that students know what they have | | | | | | | |
| to learn for this subject. | 3.50 | 4 | 3 | E | 2 | 3 | |
| 1 think an important reason for giving lectures | 3.50 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 3 | |
| in this subject is to give students a good set | | | | | | | |
| of notes | - · | | | | | - | |
| | 3.17 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | |
| I feel that I should know the answers to any questions that students may put to me during | | | | | | | |
| this subject. | | | | | | | |
| | 3.17 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | |

| ATI analysis | Mean response | FT | JT | ІТ | кт | DT | BT |
|--|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Strategy to transmit information through teacher focus | 14.17 | 16 | 14 | 16 | 11 | 12 | 16 |
| I design my teaching in this subject with the assumption that most of the students have very little useful knowledge of the topics to be covered. | 4.00 | | | | 5 | 3 | |
| In this subject I concentrate in covering the information that might be available from a | 4.00 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| good textbook | 4.50 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| I structure this subject to help students to pass the formal assessment items | 3.17 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| When I give this subject, I only provide the students with the information they will need to pass the formal assessments. | | | | | | | |
| pass the formal assessments. | 2.50 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Appendix 4 - Internal Control Principles curriculum

Subject Content – Short Form Syllabus 9434P

| Week | Topic to be Addressed (and relevant chapters of approved texts) |
|------|---|
| 1 | 1. Introduction, definitions of the internal control structure (AUS 402[.10]) and the relationship between accounting, auditing and internal control. <i>AGL</i> <i>ch.1 GCL&C ch.1&2</i> |
| 2 | Outline management's responsibility as per AUS 202[.14], to ensure the financial statements are drawn up in accordance with accounting standards. The need for internal control. Cases of fraud. <i>AGL ch.1 and W ch.4</i> |
| 3 | The three elements of internal control; control environment, management information system and the control procedures. AUS 402[.15-24] AGL ch.1 |
| 4 | The limitations of internal control AUS 402[.25] and understanding the internal control structure, AUS 402[.26]. Designing a protective mechanism. <i>W ch.5 AGL ch.1 T ch.1</i> |
| 5 | 2. Identify the accounting transactions cycles and their objectives. Determine the nature of each cycle and the accounts affected by each transaction. AGL ch.2 T chs.2-9 |
| 6 | The six techniques used to evaluate internal controls. Flow charting, checklists, walk-through. $W ch.6$ |
| 7 | (Continued) The six techniques used to evaluate internal controls. Statistical sampling (AUS 514) and risk exposure worksheets. (AUS 402[.3038]) Computer auditing techniques, (AUS214.) <i>W ch.6</i> |
| 8 | 3. The impact of a CIS on the internal control system. Comparison of manual systems and computerised systems. (AUS 214[.03]) <i>AGL ch.3 T ch.10</i> |
| 9 | Assessing the risks (AUS 214[.14]), the pervasive general controls and the specific application controls. The problems encountered with a CIS. AGL ch.4 T ch.10 |
| 10 | Mid semester test |
| 11 | 4. Internal Auditing – these auditors are employed by management to provide 'audit comfort'. The objectives of internal auditing, its nature and benefits. The Standards for Professional Practice of Internal Auditing. GCL&C ch.19 AGL ch.6 T ch.13 |
| 12 | 5. External Auditing – these auditors are independent contractors who report on management's stewardship. The differences between internal auditors and external auditors. The role of the Audit committee. Cases of negligence and third party liability. AGL ch.7 GCL&C ch.4 T ch.11 |
| 13 | 6. Not-for-profit (NFP) entities. Types of non-business entities, why they are audited and who can audit. Special considerations by the auditor before accepting the audit. Regulations affecting different NFP entities. <i>W ch.18</i> AGL ch.8 T ch.12 |
| 14 | Issues in performing an audit on a NFP entity. Reconciling fund accounting with the transaction cycle approach. The three unique control problems for NFP entities. Consideration of fraud issues and using consolidated financial |

| Week | Topic to be Addressed (and relevant chapters of approved texts) |
|------|---|
| | statements. W ch. 18 AGL ch.8 |
| 15 | Performing a NFP audit. Using a real life example. ASCPA examples |
| 16 | 7. Performance audits. AUS 806. A comparison between financial audits and performance audits. The steps in planning a performance audit AUS 808. Special Purpose Reports on the Effectiveness of Control Procedures. AUS 810. GCL&C ch.19 AGL ch.9 T ch. 13 |
| 17 | 8. Ethics and their increasing importance in control procedures. Code of Professional Conduct. General review. GCL&C ch.3 AGL ch.10 T ch.14 |
| 18 | Final Exam |

Complete learners' guide 9434P - Long form syllabus

NSW TAFE COMMISSION

Business & Public Administration Educational Services Division

Accounting

Subject Number: 9434P

Subject Name: Internal Control Principles

COURSE OUTLINE

Advanced Diploma of Accounting

Issued Semester 1 2000

NSW TAFE COMMISSION

Business & Public Administration Educational Services Division

Accounting

Advanced Diploma of Accounting

| Subject Number | 9434P |
|------------------|--|
| Subject Name | Internal Control Principles |
| Presentation | 3hr X 18 weeks or 3hr 20min X 16 weeks |
| Pre-requisite(s) | 9434F Financial Accounting |

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

On successful completion of this subject students should be able to:

- > Define Internal Control, its principles and limitations.
- > Identify the control principles as they relate to the transaction cycles.
- > Explain the nature and the impact of the computer information system (CIS).
- > Describe the role of the Internal Auditor.
- > Explain why an External Audit is essential and what role the External Auditor plays.
- Explain the procedures involved in the external audit of a Not-for-profit entity and why internal controls are so important.
- > Explain the purpose and practice of performance auditing.
- > Explain the importance of ethics in all aspects of auditing and control.

Assessment Details

- Grade Code 72
- Category D assessment.
- Class mark only is required.
- > Class mark locally set and locally marked.
- Results are reported as A, B, C, and FAIL.
- \rightarrow A >= 83, B >= 70, C >= 50, all other cases FAIL.

The timing of assessment events is offered as advice only and may be varied as required to meet local circumstances.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE COURSE:

This subject provides students with the practical skills required to design, implement and evaluate internal controls in any entity.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students **MUST** attend tests and other assessment events on the dates specified. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are free to attend these tests and assessment events at the allocated times. If you are absent from a test or assessment event, satisfactory documentary evidence must be supplied when you next attend class i.e. a medical certificate or a letter from your employer, providing it is dated on or before the date of the test or assessment event. You must be ready to sit for an alternative test at any time thereafter.

Published TAFE policy in relation to missed assessment events will apply. In summary the policy states that:

"Where a student is or expects to be absent from an assessment event or is unable to

submit an assessment event by the due date:

- the student must notify the class teacher if possible before the due date or, if this is not possible, at the first attendance after the event or within 7 days (whichever is the sooner)
- the student should give a reason to the class teacher for not attending/completing/submitting the assessment event and provide supporting evidence where possible
- > If a student is late handing in an assessment event, the following penalties may apply:
 - Penalty A if the assessment event is up to 7 days late the total mark achieved by the student is reduced by 15%
 - **Penalty B** if the assessment event is more than 7 days late the mark is reduced to zero
 - If a student does not attend a class on a negotiated date Penalty B may apply"

PRESCRIBED TEXTS

- Adams, Grose and Leeson. Internal Controls and Auditing, Prentice Hall, Sydney Australia. (Latest edition) - [AGL]
- Arens, Best, Shailer and Loebbecke. Auditing in Australia An Integrated Approach, Prentice Hall, Sydney Australia. (Latest edition) - [AGL]
- Gill, Cosserat, Leung and Coram: Modern Auditing in Australia, John Wiley and Sons, Brisbane, Australia. (Latest edition) - [GCL&C]
- Gull, Teoh and Andrew, Theory and Practice of Auditing, Nelson, Sydney Australia. (Latest edition) [GTA]
- Trenerry, Principles of Internal Control, University of New South Wales Press, Australia. (Latest edition) - [T]

References:

- Wallace, Handbook of Internal Accounting Controls, Prentice Hall, New York, USA. (Latest edition) [W]
- ASCPA Members Handbook, Volume I Accounting standards and Volume II Auditing standards

Subject Content - Detailed Topic Guide

| Week | Topic Matters to be Covered | GCL&C 1 | AGL 2 | Т 3 |
|------|---|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Introduction to Internal Control. The nature purpose of internal controls. Definitions of IC and auditing. The Auditing and Accounting Standards The relationship between accounting and auditing The need for IC. | Ch.8 Q 8.9 | Ch.1 Q1-6 | Ch.1 Q1 |
| | The objectives of ICFundamental principles of the profession. | Ch.2 Q2.14 | | |
| | <u>Introduction to the basic elements of Internal Control</u> The control environment The management information system The control procedures <u>The objectives of Accounting Internal Controls</u> General objectives Financial objectives Non-financial objectives Detailed objectives Completeness Validity Accuracy | | Ch.1 Q1-11 | |
| 2 | <u>Management's responsibility</u> Maintaining accounting systems with strong IC Cost – benefit analysis is necessary The requirements of law and the reporting framework as per the Accounting Standards | Ch.8 Q8.11 | Ch.1 Q1-9 | |
| | <u>Reasons for Internal Controls</u> Accurate reliable accounting records Safeguard the assets Prevent, detect and correct irregularities and errors Enhance the information flow between departments Ensure the entity achieves its objectives | - | Ch.1 Q1-8 | Ch.1 Q2 |
| | <u>The need for Internal Controls – Risk of Fraud</u> Administrative controls are pervasive Accounting controls operate within this environment Results of poor IC Cases of fraud and the levels of risk | | Ch.1 Q1-26 | Ch.15 Case Study 15.1 |

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| Week | Topic Matters to be Covered | GCLċC 1 | AGL 2 | Т 3 |
|------|--|--------------|----------|--------|
| | Features of a sound Internal Control system | <u> </u> | - | |
| | • Focus on quality as the necessary ingredient for | Ch.8 | | |
| | economic success | Q8.1 | | 1 |
| | • Reasons why an entity must be auditable | X 011 | | |
| • | • The monitoring of controls can assist management in | | | |
| | decision making | S. | | |
| | Bringing all the objectives of IC together | | | |
| | The designer | } | · | |
| | The Internal Auditor | · · | | |
| | The human resources | · . | | ĩ |
| | • The numan resources | | | |
| | The three elements of control | | | |
| | The control environment | | Ch.1 | Ch.1 |
| | Top management's philosophy | | Q1-17 | Q7 |
| | Structure of the entity | · · | | |
| | Positive focus and inclusion of all staff | | | |
| | External influences | | | |
| | | | | |
| | Management information systems | | | |
| | • The type of information system employed | | | |
| | Manual and computerised integration | | | |
| | Performance measures and benchmarks | | Ch.1 | |
| | Readily tracing transactions | | Q1-25 | |
| | Control procedures | | | |
| | Authorisation | | | |
| | Segregation | 1 | | |
| | Physical controls over access | | | |
| | Documentation and accounting records | | | |
| | • Independent reviews and reconciliations | Í | | |
| | The limitations of any system of internal control | | | |
| | • The effects of technology on controls | Ch.8 | Ch.1 | Ch.1 |
| | • Frustrations of new users of computer systems | Proble | Q1-16 | Q3 |
| | • The informal system behind the formal system | m | | |
| | Mistakes in judgement | 8.3 | | i i |
| | Breakdowns in communication | | | |
| | Collusion and fraud | | | |
| | Management override | | • | · · |
| | Costs versus benefits | _ | | |
| | Designing a protective mechanism | | | 1 |
| | Establishing and maintaining an audit trail | | | |
| | Using benchmarks for assessing completeness of records | | | |
| | Determining the distinction between operating and | | Î | 1 |
| | control responsibilities | | Ch.1 | |
| | A holistic approach to administrative controls | | Q1-23 | |
| | Evaluating the competence of employees | ļ | | |
| | | | | |
| | • Applying the cycle approach, working out what can go | | | 1 |
| | wrong Building operating efficiency | | | |
| | ■ Building operating efficiency | | | |

| Week | Topic Matters to be Covered | GCL&C 1 | AGL 2 | Т 3 |
|------|--|------------|----------|--------|
| 5 | | | | |
| | Accounting transaction cycles and their objectives | Ch.8 | Ch.2 | Ch.2 |
| | • Definition of an accounting system and its transaction | Q8.6 | Q2.13 | Q4 |
| | cycles | | | |
| | • Identifying the control objectives for each cycle | | | |
| | • Revenue cycle – sales, cash receipts and sales | | | |
| | adjustments | | | Ch.5 |
| | • Expenditure cycle - Purchases and cash | | | Q6 |
| | disbursements | | | |
| | Personnel cycle - Payroll | | | ~ |
| | Production cycle – Manufacturing | | Ch.2 | Ch.4 |
| | • Investing cycle – Temporary and long term | | Q2-19 | Q8 |
| | investments | | | |
| | • Determining the nature of the transaction cycle with | | | |
| | respect to its transactions, accounts affected and | | | |
| | personnel involved | | | |
| | • Identifying the flow of information through the | | | |
| | transaction cycle | | | · . |
| | • The relationship of the transaction cycles to the cash | | | · · |
| | cycle. | | | |
| 6 | | | | |
| | Six techniques used to evaluate internal controls | | Ch.17 | Ch.2 |
| | • The basic concepts underlying each technique and the | | Q17.2.a | Q6 |
| | situations in which each application can be particularly | | | |
| | useful with respect to control related activities. | | | ł |
| | Internal control checklists | | | |
| | Provide a comprehensive review | | | |
| | Documents findings | | 1 | |
| | • Serves as a link between compliance tests and | | | } |
| | substantive tests | | Ch.17 | Ch.3 |
| | • Facilitates review of working papers | | Q17-14 | Q6 |
| | • The drawbacks with the 'Yes'/'No' approach | | | |
| | Flow charting techniques | | | |
| | • Simple and descriptive of the process | | | |
| | The key is communication | Ch.8 | | |
| | Focus on cycles | Q8.4 | | |
| | Prepare with the reader in mind | | | - - |
| | • The 'Walk through' | · · | ĺ | |
| | e e | | | |
| | • Checks if transactions are processed as they should be | | | |
| | | · · | Ch.17 | · · |
| | • Helps understand the structure of internal | | Q17.2.a | |
| | accounting controls | | | |
| | • Allows us to 'disprove' a checklist or flow chart | | | |
| | Valuable in process reviews | | | 1 |

| Week | Topic Matters to be Covered | GCL&C 1 | AGL 2 | Т 3 |
|------|--|--|---|-------------|
| 7 | <u>Six techniques used to evaluate internal controls</u> (Continued) Sampling techniques The sampling process Planning the sample Determining what affects attribute sample sizes and how much! Subjective or statistical Sample selection for compliance testing Estimating the tolerable error and risk of assessing the control risk too low or too high Evaluating the sample results Computer auditing techniques Tests of controls with computer assisted audit techniques and micro-computer based audit software Parallel simulation Test data Integrated test facility | Ch.10 Q10.1 Q10.4 Ch.11 Q11.14 | Ch.16 Q16-8 Q16-14 Q16-15 Ch.19 Q19.23 | |
| 8 | The impact of Computer Information Systems (CIS) on an accounting system The characteristics of a CIS The components of the CIS Methods of processing Comparison of manual processing with computer processing Controls in a CIS Special considerations Controls in on-line entry and on-line processing The electronic data interchange environment Small computer systems Computer service organisations | Ch.11 Proble m 11.1 | Ch.19 Q19-11 | Ch.10 Q1 |
| 9 | <u>Assessing the risks in a CIS environment</u> Interdependence between firms may cause a domino effect when computers fail The lack of audit trails as electronic data interchange becomes more popular Application failures which need good contingency plans The speed of processing transactions and the lack of human intervention increases the magnitude of consequences. Risks of third party network providers using unauthorised information Security controls to prevent unauthorised disclosure or alteration | Ch.11 Q11.15 | Ch.19 Q19-19 Ch.4 Q4-19 | Ch.10 Q5 |

| Week | Topic Matters to be Covered | GCL&C 1 | AGL 2 | Т 3 |
|------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| | • Timeliness and recoverability objectives means adequate back-up retention and contingency plans. | | | |
| 10 | Mid semester test | | | |
| 11 | Internal Auditing and it service to management. Definition of Internal Audit (AUS 604[03]) Describe the objectives of internal audit and the position of the Internal Auditor within the internal control system. Compare the functions of an Internal Auditor and those of an External Auditor. Explain the conflict that can arise between various functions. The Internal Auditor as a specialist adviser to management on internal controls, but with no executive responsibility for it. | Ch.19 Q19.9 | Ch.6 Q6-8 Q6-13 | Ch.13 Q1 Q2 |
| | <u>Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditors</u> 100 – Independence 200 – Professional proficiency 300 – Scope of work 400 – Performance of audit work 500 - Management of the internal audit department | Ch.19 Proble m 19.2 | | Ch.13 Q5 |
| 12 | The external auditor, statutory rights, obligations and duties. Define 'External Auditor' – qualifications and registrations Define 'external audit' (AUS 104) Auditing as an enhancing role Auditing – a shifting paradigm Detection of fraud and errors Audit independence | Ch.4 Q4.10 | Ch.7 Q7-6 | Ch.11 Q1 |
| | Audit liability Audit within an assurance framework The audit – quality as per the auditing standards and guidance statements Agreed upon procedures The requirements of the profession The nexus between external and internal auditing | Ch.4 Q4.14 | Ch.7 Q7-11 | Ch.11 Q4 Ch.11 Q5 |
| | (AUS 604) Independent Auditor Relationships Audit committees – their role and function Management Internal auditors Shareholders | | | |

| Week | Topic Matters to be Covered | GCL&C 1 | AGL 2 | Т 3 |
|------|---|------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 13 | <u>Not-for-profit entities and the audit process (W, ch.18)</u> The universe of non-business entities State and local government Public Hospitals Colleges and universities Voluntary health and welfare organisations Churches, clubs, political parties, etc. The aims and objectives of these entities A service to members A service to the community Who may audit these entities Legislation may require a registered auditor A member of the accounting profession | | Ch.8 Q8-6 Ch.8 Q8-8 | Ch.12 Q1 Ch.12 Q2 |
| 14 | audit <u>Special issues that arise in performing an audit for a NFP entity</u> The 'Fund' versus the 'Cycle' Not profit oriented Management performance Legal or government requirements Steps in reconciling fund accounting with the cycle approach Adapting the cycle approach Remembering that funds are self balancing | | Ch.8 Q8-14 | |
| | How are the stewardship responsibilities reflected? Unique control problems Interfund transfers Incomplete recording of activities Separating restricted balances from unrestricted balances Practices that should be considered in the fund accounting environment Formality of appropriations Use of encumbrances Entry of budgeted amounts into the fund accounts Using consolidated financial statements To help see the whole picture Problems may be undetectable when looking at funds in isolation | | Ch.8 Q8-23 | Ch.12 Q4 |

| Week | Topic Matters to be Covered | GCL&C 1 | AGL 2 | Т 3 |
|------|--|-----------------|---------------|---|
| 15 | <u>Performing an audit on a NFP entity</u> The audit approach – quality from the auditing standards Rules of ethical conduct apply Communication with the existing auditor Evaluating the prospective audit The letter of engagement Difficulties that may be encountered Internal controls – do they exist and are they working all | | | Ch.12 Q6 |
| | the time? The notion of the 'bottom line' and matters such as revenue recognition Records and accountability - volunteers Different types of organisations – small and large budgets Control requirements Sources of funds How these are managed – signing of cheques? Custody of records, documents and securities Governments and Hospitals a special case Failure of controls to detect circumvention and fraud Regulatory requirements Provisions for third party settlement Fund balance restrictions Compliance audits, inventory checks and patient data bases | | Ch.8 Q8-11 | Ch.12 Q7 |
| 16 | <u>Performance auditing - Value for money, operational processes</u> The requirements of AUS 806 - objectives of a performance audit All parts of an entity are subject to audit Assess economy, efficiency and effectiveness The trade-off between effectiveness and efficiency Types of performance audit - functional, organisational & specific Types of auditor | Ch.19 Q19.12 | Ch.9 Q9-7 | Ch.13 Q4 |
| | Types of auditor Comparison with the financial audit Purpose, scope, necessity, frequency, time orientation, method, realisation, reporting requirements, recipients Benefits from performance auditing Management decision making Process reviews give a fresh outlook Identify potential problems and waste Strengthens the focus on the entity's goals Checks policies, procedures and performance Its role in both the private and public sectors | Ch.19 Q19.16 | Ch.9 Q9-11 | Ch.13 Q2 Ch.13 Case Study 13.3 |

| Week | Topic Matters to be Covered | GCL&C 1 | AGL 2 | Т 3 |
|------|---|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 17 | The code of ethics and its importance to the professional accountant, risk management and assessments and to internal controls The seven fundamental principles of ethics – (CPC) Integrity Objectivity Independence Confidentiality Technical standards Professional competence Ethical behaviour The importance of safeguarding the public interest Meeting public expectations for reporting and detecting irregularities Professional judgement in accounting and auditing Corporate governance in reducing the expectation gap | Ch.3 Q3.9 Ch.3 Q3.12 | Ch.10 Q10-7 Q10-10 Ch.10 Case Study 10-13 | Ch.14 Q3 Ch.14 Case study 14.4 |
| 18 | Final test to cover all topics | | | |

Curriculum Exemplars

- For modules category D
- Two exemplars and solutions for every learning outcome in the module descriptor.

Learning outcome 1.

1.1 List five inherent limitations that will work against Internal Controls, and briefly explain what they are.

AUS 402 [.25] suggests that internal controls can only give reasonable assurance. Inherent limitations cause controls to sometimes break down. This can be due to:

- Management's requirement that controls be cost effective
- Controls directed towards anticipated types of transactions rather than unusual ones
- Human error due to carelessness, fatigue or distraction
- Circumvention or management override
- Changes in economic conditions or environmental factors
- Breakdowns in communication
- 1.2 Set out the differences between the 'Accounting' function and the 'Auditing' function. Use an example in industry that might explain these differences.
 - The accounting function can be described as a 'constructive' function while the auditing function is a 'critical and analytical' function.
 - The accountant is like the builder gradually building the house, starting from the plans and following procedures, making sure that the framework is in place and that all the essential things are in the right place. Finally, the project is finished and the house has been constructed just like the construction of the financial statements.
 - Then the auditor, like the inspector, examines and gathers evidence to ensure that the building has conformed to standard. An opinion is issued and if all is well, the completed house is passed for habitation. The shareholders like to be sure that management has been objective in handling their company and the auditor, like the inspector, will certify this.
- 1.3 What is the underlying basic premise relating to auditing, whether it be external, internal or government auditing?
 - The underlying premise in auditing is, that no person shall ever audit that process for which they have had operational responsibility.
- 1.4 What Auditing Standard tells us whose responsibility it is to prepare the financial statements of an entity?

AUS 202 [.14] Responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the financial report is that of the management of the entity. The audit of the financial report does not relieve management of its responsibilities.⁴

- 1.5 In AUS 210, <u>Irregularities, Including Fraud, Other Illegal Acts and Errors</u>, the definition for 'errors' and for 'irregularities' explains the difference between them. Briefly set out in your own words the different meanings of these words.
 - 'Errors' means unintended mistakes in, or omissions from, the accounting financial statements.
 - 'Irregularities' means intentional misstatements, fraud and other intentional acts of omission.
- 1.6 Why might we consider that Auditing Standards are as important to the internal Auditor as they are to the External Auditor?
 - The auditing standards control the quality of the audit. The internal auditor is carrying out audit work all the time, and the quality of internal auditing can only be improved the more professional the auditor becomes and the more guidance is taken from the standards. There can be no doubt that the better the internal control system, the better the external auditor will be able to carry out the external audit.
- 1.7 Briefly explain why an entity needs internal controls. Give some examples of what might happen if the controls are not in place and working all the time.
 - Internal controls form the basis of efficient and effective operations within firms. The size of many businesses has now become so large and complex that management must rely on internal controls. If there are constant checks and review by the internal auditors then there is a measure of protection against human weaknesses and errors and irregularities will be reduced.
 - Many external auditors could not possibly audit large firms without the relying on the internal control systems. For example, we see what happened in the AWA case when internal controls were not in place and excessive foreign exchange contracts were made and huge losses had to be written off. Also, the Barings Bank collapse, where one person in an office had almost complete control over all aspects of the financial transactions, from start to finish. The Bank collapsed and was sold to the Dutch for one gilder.

Learning Outcome 2 – Transactions cycles

- 2.1 What are the major internal control objectives of the purchases cycle?
 - That purchase orders are placed only with authorised suppliers
 - Purchase orders are approved correctly
 - That a purchase officer be in charge of all purchase orders at a central location so that preferred suppliers can always be used

⁴ Extracted from ASCPA Members' Handbook June 1999 issue, AUS202.

- Goods received are checked for quality and quantity against the relevant purchase order
- Purchase order files are marked clearly that goods are received and subsidiary records updated
- Payments for purchases are only made after the purchase office has approved the file for payment
- There are no unauthorised debit entries into the accounts payable
- Amounts due to suppliers are paid according to policy promptly and in time for discount if available
- There is sufficient segregation of duties in the purchasing department receiving, custody and recording of purchases, cash payments cheques, receipts, banking etc.
- Management supervision at all times exists to ensure controls are effective and working.

2.2 Set out the reasons why an internal accounting control checklist is so useful in evaluating internal controls. Why must we be careful when designing these checklists? Refer to Wallace, p.221

- Set out the objectives of the checklist, for example in cash receipts state the accounting control related objectives, (all receipts are to be accurately recorded and deposited) and the operational objectives (to ensure that all cash received, recorded and deposited is carried out in an efficient manner).
- Set out the potential errors that may occur. These could be receipts not being banked or recorded, or if they are recorded the amount may be incorrect or the period affected could be in error.
- Then set out the controls, which are useful in achieving those objectives.

Generally speaking the questions on a checklist are worded to solicit a "yes" or "no" answer. A "no" response is expected to initiate follow-up procedures. These follow-up procedures may entail the identification of a compensating control.

In any case, some explanation of what was done with respect to the "no" response, including the source of any information used in evaluating the effects of the missing control, will be essential in order to document the control evaluation process.

The "yes/no" standardisation of responses facilitates the review process.

If either "yes" or "no" is considered inapplicable, then the third column allows a "N/A" response.

One drawback to the standard "yes/no" approach is the possibility that rather than carefully considering each questionnaire item, the person checking the list may be tempted to automatically respond "yes", knowing that, in some sense, it is the preferred and expected response.

To avoid this tendency, you should purposefully paraphrase some questions in order to solicit an assortment of "yes' and "no" responses, even though the checklist may document all responses as "yes". For example, if one item is phrased like this:

• Is the handling and listing of cash receipts segregated from the posting to the sales and general ledgers?

It could easily be revised as follows:

• Does one individual handle and list cash receipts, as well as do the posting to the sales and general ledgers?

A "no" response to the latter question, with a follow-up inquiry as to how these tasks are segregated, could provide the basis for a "yes" response on the checklist.

You are likely to obtain a much higher a much higher quality set of responses.

<u>Objective to be achieved:</u> Internal accounting control related: All receipts are to be accurately recorded and deposited.

Operations related: The collection, recording and depositing activities are to be performed in an efficient manner.

| Working paper format | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---|-----|-------------|--|-----------------------|--|----------|---------|------|
| | Are such controls present? | | | | Are such controls to be tested for | | Evaluation of controls after testing | | s after | |
| Key Controls | | | | | W/P | possible reliance? | | Reliance | | Ref. |
| | Y | N | N/A | Explanation | Ref. | Y | N | Y | N | |
| 1. Is the handling of cash segregated from the accounting for such receipts? | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. Is a locked box utilised for collecting customers' | | | | | | | | | | |
| payments? 3. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Are cash registers used with controlled-access cash register tapes? | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. Does one person have responsibility for listing cash receipts by mail for subsequent reconciliation to deposits? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Does one individual handle and list cash receipts, as well as do the posting to the sales and general ledgers? | | | | | | | | | | |

- 2.3 State what is meant by 'attribute sampling'.
- Attribute sampling is testing an attribute or characteristic of a sampling unit, rather than a dollar amount. While the attribute of interest may be whether or not the dollar amount in a journal was accurately footed, it can just as easily be a qualitative attribute, such as whether or not there are two signatures on a cheque or whether or not approval was given for a particular item. The objective of an attribute approach is to estimate the rate of occurrence or non-occurrence of an attribute of the population. Sometimes this is called the deviation rate.
- Attribute sampling can be carried out statistically or non-statistically. The fundamental issue is, that statistical sampling is when a random sample is chosen and probability theory is used to evaluate results as well as the sampling risk.
- 2.4 If we are to be successful in designing and evaluating internal controls, we should be familiar with the tools that are typically considered useful in this process. (Wallace, p.220.)

What are the six techniques we can use to evaluate controls?

- There are six tools of the trade:
 - 1. internal accounting control checklists
 - 2. flow-charting techniques
 - 3. the "walk-through"
 - 4. computer auditing techniques
 - 5. statistical sampling techniques, and
 - 6. risk exposure work-sheets

Learning Outcome 3 - CIS

- 3.1 What is meant by Parallel Simulation? Briefly explain how it works.
- In parallel simulation actual company data are processed using auditor-controlled software. This method is so named because the software is designed to reproduce or simulate the entity's processing of real data. Parallel simulation may be performed at different times during the year under auditor supervision and may be applied to reprocessing of historical data. (Gill et al, Page 416.)
- 3.2 Describe the circumstances in which the auditor may find it advantageous to use the computer in tests of controls.
- Testing controls with the computer is also known as testing through the computer. These tests are used extensively in testing input validation routines and programmed processing controls. The auditor may find that using the computer in tests of controls is advantageous when:
 - a) a significant part of the internal controls is embodied in a computer program;
 - b) there are significant gaps in the visible transaction trail;
 - c) there are large volumes of records to be tested; and
 - d) there is a complex computer program.
- The major disadvantages of testing with the computer are the special knowledge and skills required and the possible disruption of the entity's CIS operations.

3.3 Two categories and nine types of CIS controls were identified in this learning outcome. Listed below are a number of specific control procedures:

- 1. The CIS manager reports to the chief financial controller.
- 2. Back-up files.
- 3. Written approval of all program changes.
- 4. Physical controls for all data files and programs.
- 5. Batch controls.
- 6. Reconciliation of output totals.
- 7. File identification labels.
- 8. Record counts.
- 9. Limit and reasonableness checks.

Required:

Indicate both the category and type of CIS control to which each procedure pertains.

| No. | General or Application? | Type of control? |
|-----|----------------------------|--|
| 1 | GENERAL | ORGANISATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT |
| 2 | GENERAL | BACK-UP AND RECOVERY |
| 3 | GENERAL | APPLICATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE |
| 4 | GENERAL | ACCESS / COMPUTER OPERATIONS |
| 5 | APPLICATION | INPUT |
| 6 | APPLICATION | OUIPUT |
| 7 | APPLICATION | PROCESSING |
| 8 | APPLICATION | INPUT |
| 9 | APPLICATION | PROCESSING |

Learning Outcome 4 - Internal Audit

- 4.1 Monitoring and evaluating processes is an on-going function for the Internal Auditor. Question techniques are extremely important if quality answers are to be gained. Briefly describe 'Probing' questions and how and when they should be used.
- If there is to be a review of quality, environmental or safety systems, then an auditor will need to use the right "people skills". The auditor will deal with a wide range of employees from senior managers to production line staff. These employees will vary in their communication ability, their understanding of the audit process and their understanding of the auditor's job.
- **Probing questions** are used to help uncover core issues. These are useful in obtaining more detail. Probing can sound like interrogation so they should be used in combination with other open questions.
- Open questions are used to get the auditee talking. They provide a lot of information on which to build more specific questions. Generally they start with the words such as...explain to me, describe or show me.
- 4.2 Internal Audits are all about finding information on a process. A successful internal auditor is able to very skilfully use a variety of techniques to accomplish these objectives. List some of these techniques.
 - i. Do I always have eye contact or do I get involved in my own thoughts and forget about the auditee?
 - ii. Do I fold my arms?
 - iii. Do I point?
 - iv. Do I find common ground on the first meeting?
 - v. Do I find something positive to say about the auditees business area?
 - vi. Do I smile?
 - vii. Am I creating a feeling of teamwork?
 - viii. Have I prepared appropriately?
 - ix. Have I familiarised myself with the process and examined past audit findings?
- 4.3 AUS 604 sets out the scope and objectives of internal auditing. These vary widely and depend on the size and structure of the entity and the requirements of its management. What will you mostly find that internal auditing activities include?

Refer to AUS 604;

- (a) review of the internal control structure. The governing body can delegate its responsibilities for reviewing the internal control structure, monitoring the operations of the information system and internal controls and recommending improvements, to internal auditing;
- (b) examination of financial and operating information. This may include review of the means used to identify, measure, classify and report such information,

and specific inquiry into individual items including detailed testing of transactions, balances and procedures;

- (c) review of the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of operations including non-financial controls of an entity; and
- (d) review of compliance with laws, regulations and other external requirements and with management policies and directives and other internal requirements.

Learning Outcome 5 - External Audit

- 5.1 Set out a definition of an external audit. What interesting characteristics can you identify in that definition?
- Auditing is carried out by an independent contractor, who systematically collects sufficient appropriate audit evidence to evaluate against a set of criteria, such as accounting standards. The auditor then, as a service to the entity, should be able to provide a high level of assurance and render a professional opinion as to the truth and fairness of the financial statements.
- AUS 104 suggests that this assurance is provided through:
 - the issue of a statement of positive assurance that enhances the credibility of a written assertion(s) about an accountability matter ("attest review"); or
 - the provision of relevant and reliable information and a statement of positive assurance about an accountability matter where the party responsible for the matter does not make a written assertion ("direct reporting review").
- 5.2 In the last couple of years since August 1997 when the Auditing & Assurance Standards Board (AuASB) published ED 66, Reporting on the Credibility of Information, the role of auditing has changed. How has the auditing standard AUS 210, Irregularities, Including Fraud, Other Illegal Acts and Errors impacted on this shifting paradigm?
- This standard now provides guidance on:
 - (a) planning and conducting an audit to detect misstatements that have an impact on the financial report of an entity arising from irregularities including fraud, other illegal acts and errors;
 - (b) procedures to be performed when circumstances cause the auditor to suspect, or when the auditor determines, that irregularities including fraud, other illegal acts and errors have occurred; and
 - (c) reporting irregularities including fraud, other illegal acts and errors to the governing body or an appropriate level of management, users of financial reports and third parties.
- So there have been consequential changes in the paradigm of independent auditing, in particular with respect to detecting errors and fraud. The independence of the auditor is paramount and the cornerstone of auditing. Also, because of the sustaining factor of auditor liability, it is imperative that the auditor carries out the contractual duties with skill

and due care. There has been an increase in case law and the duty of the auditor to third parties is now of concern as well.

Learning Outcome 6 - Not-for-profit entities

6.1 What issues should the auditor consider before accepting the audit of a not-for-

profit organisation?

- 1. The size and purpose of the entity
- 2. How the entity is set up, i.e. incorporated, company limited by guarantee etc.
- 3. The reporting requirements.
- 4. The requirements of members.
- 5. Records that are available and the staff that are employed.

6.2 There are three control problems unique to not-for-profit entities. List the three and briefly state why each is important.

i. <u>Interfund transfers</u>: This is perhaps the most critical control problem with respect to fund accounting. Since the entire structure of fund accounting is intended to ensure an appropriate stewardship function over separate operations and related funds of an entity, only authorised interfund transfers should be made.

ii. <u>Incomplete recording</u> of transactions: It is easy to overlook an entry to another fund when a transaction occurs in a self-balancing fund of the entity.

iii. <u>Separating restricted balances from unrestricted balances</u>: These specific funds should be properly separated from general funds. Restricted gifts, bequests, government grants etc, need to be dealt with as specified by the donor.

6.3 What are the steps in reconciling Fund Accounting in Not for profit entities with the Transaction Cycle approach in Profit entities?

- 6.3.1 Be clear about the type of activities of the entity.
- 6.3.2 Classify such activities as to their relationship to:
 - 6.3.2.1 cash receipts
 - 6.3.2.2 cash disbursements
 - 6.3.2.3 finance
 - 6.3.2.4 non-routine activities
- 6.3.3 Identify the specific fund affected by those activities.
- 6.3.4 Identify the control objectives and related procedures.

Learning Outcome 7 – Performance auditing

- 7.1 Set out the three types of performance audits and give a brief description of each.
 - Functional audits examines a particular operation
 - Organisational audits takes the firm as a whole to see if various functions interact efficiently
 - Specific or Special audits special audits at the request of management
- 7.2 In operational or performance auditing, AUS 806 sets out the meanings of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. What do each of these mean?
- "Economy" means the acquisition of the appropriate quality and quantity of financial, human, physical and information resources at the appropriate times and at the lowest cost.
- "Efficiency" means the use of financial, human, physical and information resources such that output is maximised for any given set of resource inputs, or input is minimised for any given quantity and quality of output.
- "Effectiveness" means the achievement of the objectives or other intended effects of activities.

Learning Outcome 8 - Ethics

8.1 All the professional accounting bodies have adopted a professional code of conduct adopting the fundamental principles established by the International Federation of Accountants. What are the principles upon which ethical conduct is based?

Integrity

Members must be straightforward, honest and sincere in their approach to professional work.

Objectivity

Members must be fair and must not allow prejudice, conflict of interest or bias to override their objectivity. When reporting on financial statements which come under their review they must maintain an impartial attitude.

Independence

Members must be and should be seen to be free of any interest which might be regarded, whatever its actual effect, as being incompatible with integrity and objectivity. (Refer to Professional Statement F1 of this Code.)

Confidentiality

Members must respect the confidentiality of information acquired in the course of their work and must not disclose any such information to a third party without specific authority or unless there is a legal or professional duty to disclose it. (Refer to Professional Statement C5 of this Code.)

Technical & Professional Standards

Members must carry out their professional work in accordance with the technical and professional standards relevant to that work. (Refer to Section E of this Code.)

Competence and Due Care

Members must perform professional services with due care, competence and diligence. A member has 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 up-to-date developments in practice, legislation and techniques. In agreeing to provide professional services it is implied that there is a level of competence necessary to perform professional services and that the knowledge, skill and experience of the professional accountant will be applied with reasonable care and diligence. Professional accountants should therefore refrain from performing any services which they are not competent to carry out unless advice and assistance is obtained to ensure that the services are performed satisfactorily.

Ethical Behaviour

Members must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the good reputation of their profession and refrain from any conduct which might bring discredit to their profession.

The Public Interest

Members must at all times safeguard the interests of their clients and employers provided that they do not conflict with the duties and loyalties owed to the community and its laws.

- 8.2 The role of directors in discharging their duties is called "Corporate Governance". What were the key features identified by the committee led by Henry Bosch in 1991?
 - The boards should include a number of outside non-executive directors.
 - Audit committees are strongly recommended as part of corporate governance, offering independent advice and expertise on matters such as internal controls, management fraud, etc.
 - Directors should disclose financial and non-financial information.

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