



- 一、請說明可比較性(comparability)、一致性(consistency)及統一性(uniformity)三者之意義及彼此間之關係 (25%)

- 二、請說明財務會計觀念架構(financial accounting conceptual framework)之意義與作用，並比較我國與美國財務會計觀念架構內容之異同 (25%)



- 三、Presented below is a paper related to recent development in accounting standard. Please read it carefully and then answer some questions required following the paper. Please write down your answer in Chinese only. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lawrence Summers, former Secretary of the Treasury of U.S., indicated that the single most important innovation shaping the capital markets was the idea of generally accepted accounting principles. He went on to say that we need something similar internationally.

All of us believe that the Secretary is right. Relevant and reliable financial information is a necessity for viable capital markets. Unfortunately, companies outside the United States often prepare financial statements using standards different from U.S. GAAP. As a result, international companies such as Microsoft, Coca-Cola, and IBM have to develop financial information in different ways. Beyond the additional costs these companies incur, users of the financial statements often must understand at least two sets of GAAP. (Understanding one set is hard enough!) It is not surprising therefore that there is a growing demand for one set of high-quality international standards. High-quality standards must have the following characteristics.

- They must permit few alternative practices.
- They must be clearly stated, to allow for easy interpretation and consistent application.
- They must be comprehensive, covering the major transactions facing companies, and must provide an effective system for responding to new transactions.
- They must provide transparency of information (full disclosure, understandability), to make that information relevant for making effective decisions.

Developing high-quality international standards is not easy. Accounting for transactions in the United States sometimes differs significantly from practices in other countries. These differences in some cases are quite fundamental; they involve issues such as when companies should recognize and measure assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses.

Here are some examples of such differences:

- The standards in the United Kingdom permit companies to value assets at fair market value using appraisals. In the United States this practice is not allowed.



- The standards in Mexico permit companies to adjust assets such as inventory and plant assets for inflation effects. Thus, Mexican companies report some financial information restated for price-level changes.
- In the United States, companies capitalize goodwill and write it off as an expense only if it is impaired. Some other countries allow different amortization periods for companies that capitalize goodwill.
- In some countries companies do not recognize as a liability certain types of benefits granted to employees (such as health benefits). Instead, companies simply record these benefits at the time they are paid. In the United States, companies recognize these benefits when incurred.
- In some countries revenue recognition follows a cash-basis approach rather than an accrual-basis approach.

Presently, there are two sets of standards accepted for international use—U.S. GAAP and the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) issued by the London-based International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The IASB is a privately funded accounting standard setter based in London, UK. Its members currently come from nine countries and have a variety of functional backgrounds; twelve of the fourteen IASB's members have full-time positions on the Board. Structure of IASB is comprised of two main bodies: The International Accounting Standards Committee Foundation (IASCF) provides oversight and raises fund. The International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) develops the standards, which are now referred to as International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). In addition, the IASB has an interpretations committee (similar to the U.S. Emerging Issues Task Force) and an advisory council (similar to the FASB's Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Committee). The Board is committed to developing, in the public interest, a single set of high-quality, understandable, and enforceable global accounting standards that require transparent and comparable information in general-purpose financial statements. In addition, the Board cooperates with national accounting standard setters to achieve convergence in accounting standards around the world.

Already 90 countries use IFRS, and the European Union now requires all listed companies in Europe (over 7,000 companies) to use it. The FASB and the IASB are now working hard to find common ground related to existing and proposed standards. Both parties recognize that global markets will best be served if only one set of GAAP is used. The task will not be easy, but the environment is conducive to convergence of the two systems.



Most agree that, for the following reasons, there is a need for one set of globalized accounting standards.

1. Multinational corporations.

Today companies view the entire world as their market. Some of the best-known corporations, such as Coca-Cola, Intel, and McDonald's, generate more than 50 percent of their sales outside the United States. These organizations no longer think of themselves as simply U.S. companies. The same situation is occurring overseas as many foreign companies find their largest market to be the United States.

2. Mergers and acquisitions.

All you have to do is look in the Wall Street Journal to quickly understand the merger activity taking place between companies from different countries. The mergers of such international giants as DaimlerChrysler and Vodafone/Mannesmann suggest that we will see even more of these types of mergers in the future.

3. Information technology.

We have witnessed an incredible, transformation in the speed and scale of communications among companies and individuals across borders. As communication barriers continue to drop, companies and individuals in different countries and markets are becoming comfortable buying and selling goods and services from one another.

4. Financial markets.

Financial markets are some of the most significant international markets today. Whether it is currency, equity securities (stocks), bonds, or derivatives, there are active markets throughout the world trading these types of instruments. With the touch of a computer key, billions of dollars are transferred from one market to another.

The FASB and the IASB are working together toward the goal of a single set of high-quality accounting standards that will be used both domestically and internationally. To achieve this goal, the FASB and IASB are undertaking several joint projects. One joint project is development of a common conceptual framework for financial accounting and reporting. The goal of this project is to build a framework that both the FASB and the IASB can use when developing new and revised accounting standards.

Other joint efforts involve developing new standards on major topics. Presently, the FASB and IASB are working on such major projects as purchase method procedures, revenue recognition, and reporting on financial performance. When these issues are ultimately settled, there should be little, if any, difference between the FASB and IASB standards.



The FASB and IASB are also attempting to eliminate or narrow differences through short-term convergence projects. This approach has been quite successful so far. For example, the FASB has issued standards that mirror present IASB standards on such reporting issues as exchanges of non-monetary assets and accounting changes. The goal of this collaboration is to select the better standard and move forward with it.

Finally, the two Boards are also coordinating interpretive activity. As often stated, "the devil is in the details." Both groups are working hard to ensure that not only are the broad conceptual approaches the same, but also the methods of applying them are the same. The Boards are not looking for mutual recognition of each other's standards. Rather, they want the same standards, interpretations, and language.

Regarding the FASB and convergence, Bob Herz, present chair of the FASB, has taken a position he calls "killing three birds with one stone." That is, he hopes that new standards will accomplish the following: (1) improve U.S. reporting; (2) simplify U.S. standards and standard setting; and (3) provide international convergence.

Questions :

- 1st. Please list the reasons for one set of international accounting standards. (10%)
- 2nd. Some differences exist between accounting for transactions in U.S. and in other countries. Please depict three examples as shown in the paper. (10%)
- 3rd. What are the necessary characteristics for one set of high-quality accounting standards? (10%)
- 4th. Please describe the structure of IASB in detail. (10%)
- 5th. Present chair of the FASB, Bob Herz, said "killing three birds with one stone". What does he imply? (10%)



- 一、知識經濟時代下企業或非營利組織之價值創造力，主要取決於組織成員之水平與整合及應用知識之能力。請簡要說明您認為可以藉由哪些管理會計之方法來協助組織提升其競爭力？(25 分)
- 二、為降低以短期財務資訊為績效評估之依據所帶來之扭曲效果，管理會計人員嘗試以更長之期間(如產品生命週期)，或從更寬之範圍(如價值鏈)來分析各種活動對組織績效之影響。請簡要說明此方面您認為可以藉由哪些管理會計之方法來協助組織提升其競爭力或減少扭曲？(25 分)
- 三、企業在導入作業基礎成本制(activity-based costing system)的過程中，可能面臨那些困難與挑戰？(20 分)
- 四、請問道德風險問題(moral hazard problem)與管理會計有何關連？(20 分)
- 五、企業應用 CVP 分析目標營業利益時，應如何處理不確定性或基本假設之變動？(10 分)