

4.03 Corporate Governance - Conflicts, Mechanisms, Risks, and Benefits

Question 1

Of the following, the most likely source of principal-agent conflict between managers and shareholders is managers' having:

- A. remuneration tied to stock-based compensation.
- B. different levels of risk tolerance than shareholders.
- C. more limited access to information about the business.

Question 2

Which component of stakeholder management does a corporation least likely control?

- A. Legal infrastructure
- B. Contractual infrastructure
- C. Organizational infrastructure

Question 3

An effective corporate governance system most likely:

- A. helps protect creditor rights.
- B. creates incentive for management to take fewer risks.
- C. impedes a company's ability to respond quickly to market events.

Question 4

Which of the following factors is most appropriately a concern for potential shareholders?

- A. An activist shareholder with a significant position
- B. Executive remuneration that includes time-vested shares
- C. Governance codes implemented on a "comply or explain" basis

Question 5

An argument supporting a dual-class structure of common equity is most likely that compared to single-class structures, dual-class structures better:

- A. align voting power with economic ownership.
- B. promote stability and long-term strategic investments.
- C. remove conflicts of interest between noncontrolling shareholders and management.

Question 6

Which of the following topics is most likely to be voted on during a company's annual general meeting?

- A. Approving the external auditor
- B. Accepting a merger or acquisition
- C. Amending the rights of a class of shares

Question 7

At a shareholders' annual general meeting (AGM), which of the following most likely requires a supermajority vote?

- A. Merger or takeover transaction
- B. Approval of financial statements
- C. Election of directors and auditors

Question 8

Which of the following is most likely a responsibility of a board of director's remuneration committee?

- A. Proposing the compensation for the external auditors
- B. Evaluating the performance of the company's managers
- C. Setting the criteria for what constitutes an independent director

Question 9

The founder of Company P, who owns 51% of the company, chooses to buy materials from Firm S, which is owned by a family relative. Firm S charges 25% above current market price for its products, which are of ordinary quality. In this scenario, conflicts of interest are most likely to arise between Company P's:

- A. customers and suppliers.
- B. creditors and board of directors.
- C. controlling shareholder and minority shareholders.

Question 10

With regard to remuneration policies, which of the following practices is least likely to align executive compensation with shareholder interests?

- A. Implementing clawback provisions
- B. Giving shareholders "say on pay" rights
- C. Granting stock options rather than performance shares

Question 11

Which of the following is a function of a company's board of directors?

- A. Execute company strategy
- B. Prepare company financial statements
- C. Review merger and acquisition proposals

Question 12

Which function is least likely a responsibility of the audit committee?

- A. Recommending an external auditor
- B. Providing oversight of the application of accounting policies
- C. Monitoring company-wide compliance with all relevant laws and regulations

Question 13

Stakeholder theory asserts that the primary responsibility of corporate governance is to:

- A. maximize shareholder returns.
- B. prioritize the needs of employees.
- C. balance the competing needs of all interested parties.

Question 14

Which of the following is most accurate with regard to a dual-class share structure?

- A. Shareholders have voting power equal to their percentage of ownership.
- B. It may grant founders superior voting control even if their ownership level falls below 50%.
- C. It typically grants outside shareholders greater voting power than insiders and family members.

Question 15

Which of the following is least likely a role of the governance committee?

- A. Develop the company's code of ethics
- B. Ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- C. Establish nomination and identification processes for director positions