CPA British Council®

Session 3: Strategic Level

Examination Paper – Descriptive / Case-Based

Time Allowed: 3 Hours Maximum Marks: 100

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

- 1. All questions are compulsory.
- 2. Answer in English and begin each question on a new page.
- 3. Clearly number your answers as per the question numbers in the paper.
- 4. Integrate strategic, financial, governance, and ethical concepts in your responses.
- 5. Support your answers with logical analysis, real-world relevance, and appropriate frameworks where necessary.

SECTION A – CASE STUDY QUESTIONS

(Total: 40 Marks)

Answer all questions. Each question carries 20 marks.

Question 1 – Strategic Financial Leadership (20 Marks)

You have been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Horizon Energy PLC, a large energy company transitioning into renewable technologies. The company is considering a \$500 million investment in offshore wind farms and needs to secure funding while maintaining its credit rating. The board is concerned about long-term shareholder value and risk exposure.

Required:

- a) Evaluate the strategic financial considerations involved in this investment decision.
- b) Discuss the methods of financing available and their impact on the company's capital structure.
- c) Recommend an approach for managing financial risk during the transition phase.

Question 2 – Business Strategy & Ethics (20 Marks)

NovaMed Inc. is a pharmaceutical company under public scrutiny after a whistleblower revealed unethical clinical testing practices in a developing country. The company faces legal consequences, brand damage, and loss of investor confidence.

Required:

- a) Identify the strategic risks faced by NovaMed Inc. in this scenario.
- b) Discuss the ethical responsibilities of senior management under international business ethics standards.
- c) Recommend a corporate response strategy that includes legal, reputational, and governance reforms.

SECTION B – DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY QUESTIONS

(Total: 60 Marks) Answer all questions.

Question 3 – Strategic Performance Management (15 Marks)

Discuss the concept of value creation in modern performance management. How can strategic KPIs be aligned with long-term organizational goals? Use a performance framework such as the Triple Bottom Line or EVA (Economic Value Added) to illustrate your answer.

Question 4 – Risk Management and Internal Control (15 Marks)

Explain the role of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) in strategic decision-making. Describe the COSO framework and how it supports the development of a strong risk culture in multinational organizations.

Question 5 – Advanced Corporate Reporting (15 Marks)

Discuss the importance of Integrated Reporting (<IR>) in enhancing corporate transparency and accountability.

How does it differ from traditional financial reporting, and what are the challenges companies face when adopting <IR>?

Question 6 – Strategic Governance (10 Marks)

Define strategic governance.

Explain how a Board can ensure accountability, sustainability, and long-term value creation while balancing stakeholder interests in a dynamic global environment.

End of Paper