

Chapter 02 Strategy: The Totality of Decisions

Student: _____

1. "Supporting promotional growth opportunities" is an example of which of the following?
 - A. Objectives
 - B. Internal alignment
 - C. Externally competitive
 - D. Employee contributions

2. "Putting some skin in the game" refers to:
 - A. employees paid entirely on commission
 - B. being paid as a contract vs. a regular employee
 - C. below market base pay with stock ownership
 - D. above market base pay with low benefits

3. A compensation system that pays employees such that "some skin is in the game" means that
 - A. a portion of employee pay is at risk
 - B. employers risk high labor costs
 - C. level of base pay is below competitors
 - D. base pay is low while benefits are generous

4. In which of the following country would it be most difficult for someone to move from one employer to another?

A. U.S.

B. Korea

C. Germany

D. Canada

5. At the corporate level, a strategic compensation perspective addresses the question:

A. What business should we be in?

B. What is our desired return on assets?

C. How can our total compensation help gain competitive advantage to achieve organization success?

D. How can job analysis help us select the most appropriate certain compensation technique(s) for our organization?

6. What level of strategy is the question "how do we gain competitive advantage"?

A. Corporate

B. Business unit

C. HR

D. Departmental

7. The social, competitive and regulatory environment factors are most important for which type of strategy?
- A. Corporate
 - B. Business unit
 - C. HR
 - D. Strategic compensation
8. Which of the following relationships within a pay system is accurate?
- A. Compensation objectives shape pay policies.
 - B. Pay policies determine the objectives of the pay system.
 - C. Organization strategies determine employee pay needs.
 - D. Pay policies form the compensation strategy of the organization.
9. A focus on competitor's costs is most closely associated with a _____ strategy.
- A. innovator
 - B. customer-focused
 - C. cost-cutter
 - D. differentiated
10. A compensation system using market-based pay is most likely to be part of a _____ strategy.
- A. innovator
 - B. cost-cutter
 - C. global
 - D. customer-focused

11. Flexible-generic job descriptions would most likely be used with a _____ strategy.

- A. innovator
- B. customer-focused
- C. differentiated
- D. cost-cutter

12. A compensation system focusing on system control and work specifications is most closely associated with _____ strategy.

- A. global
- B. customer-focused
- C. cost-cutter
- D. differentiated

13. Whole Foods' policy of holding executive salaries to no more than 14 times average pay of full-time employees is an example of which strategic pay decision?

- A. External competitiveness
- B. Employee contributions
- C. Management
- D. Internal alignment

14. Decisions regarding what forms compensation should be are part of _____.

- A. internal alignment
- B. external competitiveness
- C. employee contributions
- D. management

15. The choice to communicate and make open an organization's pay system to employees is an example of which strategic choice?

- A. Internal alignment
- B. External competitiveness
- C. Employee contributions
- D. Management

16. The decision to base pay increases on individual or group performance is made within the _____ strategic compensation choices.

- A. internal alignment
- B. external competitiveness
- C. employee contributions
- D. management

17. A book listing the previous year's pay of all employees is part of Whole Foods "No-secrets" philosophy. This is an example of which strategic compensation choice?

- A. Internal alignment
- B. External competitiveness
- C. Employee contributions
- D. Management

18. Whole Foods' decision to seek and engage employees who are going to help the company make money is an example of which strategic pay decisions?

- A. Objectives
- B. Employee contributions
- C. Internal alignment
- D. Management

19. The second step of developing a total compensation strategy is to:

- A. implement strategy.
- B. assess total compensation implications.
- C. estimate the cost of the strategy.
- D. map a total compensation strategy.

20. "Choosing techniques to fit strategy" is a part of which step in developing a total compensation system?
- A. Reassess
 - B. Implement strategy
 - C. Map a total compensation strategy
 - D. Assess total compensation implications
21. Examination of employee and union needs and the social and political context is a part of _____ step in formulating a total compensation strategy.
- A. assess total compensation implications
 - B. implement strategy
 - C. mapping strategy
 - D. assessing business needs
22. Which of the following is the correct order of the steps in formulating a total compensation strategy?
- A. Assess total compensation strategy, implement strategy, map a total compensation strategy, reassess
 - B. Assess total compensation strategy, map a total compensation strategy, implement strategy, reassess
 - C. Map a total compensation strategy, implement strategy, assess total compensation strategy, reassess
 - D. Map a total compensation strategy, assess total compensation strategy, implement strategy, reassess

23. "To maintain good citizenship as a company" and "To make a fair profit on current operations" are examples of _____.

- A. values
- B. mission
- C. goals
- D. operating principles

24. Among unconventional benefits, U. S. workers in the Hudson's survey rated _____ as their most preferred.

- A. more supplemental insurance
- B. more job training
- C. a more flexible work schedule
- D. more personal days and family leave

25. Which of the following statements regarding allowing employees choice in their pay mix is not true?

- A. A wide-range of choices is difficult to manage
- B. It provides an employer a clear competitive advantage
- C. Unlimited choice is difficult to design
- D. Too many choices can confuse people

26. Union preferences is a major factor in _____ of a total compensation strategy.

- A. implementing
- B. reassessing
- C. assessing implications
- D. mapping

27. In mapping a total compensation strategy, the question of how is compensation in the overall HR strategy is part of _____.

- A. objectives
- B. internal alignment
- C. external competitiveness
- D. management

28. The issue of how much and what forms of pay are our competitors using is part of which objective of total compensation strategy?

- A. Objectives
- B. Internal alignment
- C. External competitiveness
- D. Management

29. The role non-HR managers play in making pay decisions is called _____.

- A. ownership
- B. transparency
- C. technology
- D. decentralized decision-making

30. Issues of transparency, technology, and choice are examples of choices related to the _____ strategy choice of total compensation.

- A. objectives
- B. management
- C. employee contributions
- D. internal alignment

31. Career growth, hierarchy and flexible design are examples of choices related to the _____ strategy choice of total compensation.

- A. objectives
- B. internal alignment
- C. external competitiveness
- D. employee contributions

32. A strategy map contains strategies about all but which of the following?

- A. External competitiveness
- B. Management
- C. HR alignment
- D. Employee contributions

33. Which of the following is not a test of whether a pay strategy is a source of competitive advantage?

- A. Alignment with business strategy
- B. Cost effectiveness
- C. Differentiation
- D. Adding value

34. Which of the following is not one of the tests to determine if a pay strategy is a source of competitive advantage?

- A. Alignment of the pay system with the organization's business strategy
- B. Differentiation of an organization's strategy from its competitors
- C. Internal alignment of the pay strategy with the organization's strategy
- D. External competitiveness of the pay system

35. Which of the following is the easiest test to pass?

- A. Alignment
- B. Differentiation
- C. Integration
- D. Adding value

36. The alignment test

- A. is difficult to imitate.
- B. is the most difficult test.
- C. helps ensure passing the differentiation test.
- D. becomes difficult if the differentiation test is not clear.

37. Trying to measure an ROI for any compensation strategy implies that

- A. it is possible to align and differentiate and still fail to add value.
- B. people are "human capital," similar to other factors of production.
- C. adding value is the most difficulty test.
- D. value created as a result of costs is difficult to specify.

38. _____ is a "best practice".

- A. Smaller internal pay differences
- B. Larger internal pay differences
- C. Both smaller and larger internal pay differences
- D. Neither smaller nor larger internal pay differences

39. Research investigating high-performance workplaces found that performance-based pay _____ when combined with other high performance practices.

- A. improves attitudes and behaviors
- B. shows large productivity improvements
- C. reduces labor costs
- D. has little effect on quality

40. When organization performance declines,

- A. a virtuous circle may be created.
- B. performance-based pay plans do not pay off.
- C. managers will change the pay practices.
- D. employees will work harder to improve performance.

41. Most organizations rely upon the market to determine how to pay their employees since compensation strategy is uncertain and complex.

True False

42. When Microsoft replaced stock options with stock awards, they were asking employees to put more "skin in the game".

True False

43. Labor market-based compensation practices in countries such as China, Germany and France, are likely to be less effective than in countries such as the U.S., Korea or Singapore.

True False

44. Strategy refers to the fundamental direction that an organization chooses.

True False

45. An organization's strategy is defined by the tradeoffs in choices of what to do and what not to do.

True False

46. In the proper sequence of strategic decisions, HR strategies are made before business unit strategies.

True False

47. Customer-focused pay strategies are very likely to use market-based pay.

True False

48. Compensation systems focusing on competitor labor costs typically follow a cost-cutter strategy.

True False

49. Although three separate compensation strategies may be identified, many companies use a combination of all three.

True False

50. Internal alignment refers to how differently levels of skills and work are paid across different organizations.

True False

51. How an organization positions its total compensation against competitors is part of external competitiveness strategic choices.

True False

52. One of Whole Foods' employee contributions strategic compensation choices is to seek and engage employees who are going to help the company make money.

True False

53. What business should a company be in and how does the company win are questions that are a part of mapping a total compensation strategy.

True False

54. The fourth step of formulating a total compensation strategy is to reassess.

True False

55. Useful compensation comparisons across countries may be done by focusing on hourly wages and productivity.

True False

56. International compensation comparisons are challenging because retirement and health care programs, paid holidays and length of work week varies across countries.

True False

57. Compensation strategy should reflect the organization's values.

True False

58. A major challenge in the design of future pay systems is how to better satisfy individual needs and preferences.

True False

59. The major challenge in the design of future pay systems is reducing the pay gap between top executives and low-level employees.

True False

60. Unlimited compensation choices by employees would meet with disapproval from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

True False

61. Offering employees choice in their compensation mix provides firms a distinct competitive advantage.

True False

62. Since unions represent such a small fraction of the labor force, their influence on pay decisions is relatively minor.

True False

63. Pay systems should fit well with other HR systems.

True False

64. In a high-performance system, pay strategy plays a lead, as opposed to support role.

True False

65. Work/life balance issues are part of competitiveness decisions in the pay model.

True False

66. A compensation strategy map shows which strategy is best for an organization.

True False

67. External competitiveness is one test of competitive advantage.

True False

68. Benchmarking and copying best practices does not lead to competitive advantage.

True False

69. Research on the effects of pay level showed that pay level affects financial performance while how employees are paid has no effect.

True False

70. When an organization uses pay for performance and performance is improving, this is a virtuous circle.

True False

71. What is strategy? How is it defined?

72. Define defenders and prospectors as referred to by Miles and Snow.

73. What are the different levels of strategy and the strategic choices in each level?

74. Compensation systems can be tailored to general business strategies. List and explain these strategies.
75. Explain AMO theory.
76. What are the different steps in formulating a total compensation strategy? List them in their order of occurrence.

77. List the different factors in mapping a total compensation strategy.

78. What is the first step in assessing total compensation implications?

79. What are the aspects of the alignment of pay strategies?

80. Write short notes on Virtuous and Vicious Circles.

Chapter 02 Strategy: The Totality of Decisions **Key**

1. "Supporting promotional growth opportunities" is an example of which of the following?

(p. 34)

- A. Objectives
- B. Internal alignment
- C. Externally competitive
- D. Employee contributions

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #1

2. "Putting some skin in the game" refers to:

(p. 35)

- A. employees paid entirely on commission
- B. being paid as a contract vs. a regular employee
- C. below market base pay with stock ownership
- D. above market base pay with low benefits

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #2

3. A compensation system that pays employees such that "some skin is in the game" means that

(p. 35)

- A. a portion of employee pay is at risk
- B. employers risk high labor costs
- C. level of base pay is below competitors
- D. base pay is low while benefits are generous

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #3

4. In which of the following country would it be most difficult for someone to move from one employer to another?

(p. 31)

- A. U.S.
- B. Korea
- C. Germany
- D. Canada

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #4

5. At the corporate level, a strategic compensation perspective addresses the question:

(p. 37)

- A. What business should we be in?
- B. What is our desired return on assets?
- C. How can our total compensation help gain competitive advantage to achieve organization success?
- D. How can job analysis help us select the most appropriate certain compensation technique(s) for our organization?

Difficulty: Medium

6. What level of strategy is the question "how do we gain competitive advantage"?

(p. 37)

- A. Corporate
- B. Business unit
- C. HR
- D. Departmental

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #6

7. The social, competitive and regulatory environment factors are most important for which type of strategy?

(p. 37)

- A. Corporate
- B. Business unit
- C. HR
- D. Strategic compensation

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #7

8. Which of the following relationships within a pay system is accurate?

(p. 38)

- A. Compensation objectives shape pay policies.
- B. Pay policies determine the objectives of the pay system.
- C. Organization strategies determine employee pay needs.
- D. Pay policies form the compensation strategy of the organization.

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #8

9. A focus on competitor's costs is most closely associated with a _____ strategy.

(p. 38)

- A. innovator
- B. customer-focused
- C. cost-cutter
- D. differentiated

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #9

10. A compensation system using market-based pay is most likely to be part of a _____ strategy.

(p. 38)

- A. innovator
- B. cost-cutter
- C. global
- D. customer-focused

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #10

11. Flexible-generic job descriptions would most likely be used with a _____ strategy.

(p. 38)

- A. innovator
- B. customer-focused
- C. differentiated
- D. cost-cutter

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #11

12. A compensation system focusing on system control and work specifications is most closely associated with _____ strategy.

(p. 38)

- A. global
- B. customer-focused
- C. cost-cutter
- D. differentiated

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #12

13. Whole Foods' policy of holding executive salaries to no more than 14 times average pay of full-time employees is an example of which strategic pay decision?

(p. 42)

- A. External competitiveness
- B. Employee contributions
- C. Management
- D. Internal alignment

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #13

14. Decisions regarding what forms compensation should be are part of _____.

(p. 42)

- A. internal alignment
- B. external competitiveness
- C. employee contributions
- D. management

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #14

15. The choice to communicate and make open an organization's pay system to employees is an example of which strategic choice?
(p. 42)

- A. Internal alignment
- B. External competitiveness
- C. Employee contributions
- D. Management

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #15

16. The decision to base pay increases on individual or group performance is made within the _____ strategic compensation choices.
(p. 42)

- A. internal alignment
- B. external competitiveness
- C. employee contributions
- D. management

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #16

17. A book listing the previous year's pay of all employees is part of Whole Foods "No-secrets" philosophy. This is an example of which strategic compensation choice?
(p. 42)

- A. Internal alignment
- B. External competitiveness
- C. Employee contributions
- D. Management

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #17

18. Whole Foods' decision to seek and engage employees who are going to help the company make money is an example of which strategic pay decisions?
(p. 42)

- A. Objectives
- B. Employee contributions
- C. Internal alignment
- D. Management

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #18

19. The second step of developing a total compensation strategy is to:
(p. 43)

- A. implement strategy.
- B. assess total compensation implications.
- C. estimate the cost of the strategy.
- D. map a total compensation strategy.

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #19

20. "Choosing techniques to fit strategy" is a part of which step in developing a total compensation system?
(p. 43)

- A. Reassess
- B. Implement strategy
- C. Map a total compensation strategy
- D. Assess total compensation implications

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #20

21. Examination of employee and union needs and the social and political context is a part of
(p. 43) _____ step in formulating a total compensation strategy.

- A. assess total compensation implications
- B. implement strategy
- C. mapping strategy
- D. assessing business needs

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #21

22. Which of the following is the correct order of the steps in formulating a total compensation
(p. 43) strategy?

- A. Assess total compensation strategy, implement strategy, map a total compensation strategy, reassess
- B. Assess total compensation strategy, map a total compensation strategy, implement strategy, reassess
- C. Map a total compensation strategy, implement strategy, assess total compensation strategy, reassess
- D. Map a total compensation strategy, assess total compensation strategy, implement strategy, reassess

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #22

23. "To maintain good citizenship as a company" and "To make a fair profit on current operations" (p. 45) are examples of _____.

- A. values
- B. mission
- C. goals
- D. operating principles

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #23

24. Among unconventional benefits, U. S. workers in the Hudson's survey rated _____ as their (p. 46) most preferred.

- A. more supplemental insurance
- B. more job training
- C. a more flexible work schedule
- D. more personal days and family leave

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #24

25. Which of the following statements regarding allowing employees choice in their pay mix is not (p. 46-47) true?

- A. A wide-range of choices is difficult to manage
- B. It provides an employer a clear competitive advantage
- C. Unlimited choice is difficult to design
- D. Too many choices can confuse people

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #25

26. Union preferences is a major factor in _____ of a total compensation strategy.

(p. 47)

- A. implementing
- B. reassessing
- C. assessing implications
- D. mapping

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #26

27. In mapping a total compensation strategy, the question of how is compensation in the overall

(p. 49) HR strategy is part of _____.

- A. objectives
- B. internal alignment
- C. external competitiveness
- D. management

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #27

28. The issue of how much and what forms of pay are our competitors using is part of which

(p. 49) objective of total compensation strategy?

- A. Objectives
- B. Internal alignment
- C. External competitiveness
- D. Management

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #28

29. The role non-HR managers play in making pay decisions is called _____.

(p. 49)

- A. ownership
- B. transparency
- C. technology
- D. decentralized decision-making

Difficulty: Difficult

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #29

30. Issues of transparency, technology, and choice are examples of choices related to the _____ strategy choice of total compensation.

(p. 49)

- A. objectives
- B. management
- C. employee contributions
- D. internal alignment

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #30

31. Career growth, hierarchy and flexible design are examples of choices related to the _____ strategy choice of total compensation.

(p. 49)

- A. objectives
- B. internal alignment
- C. external competitiveness
- D. employee contributions

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #31

32. A strategy map contains strategies about all but which of the following?

(p. 49)

- A. External competitiveness
- B. Management
- C. HR alignment
- D. Employee contributions

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #32

33. Which of the following is not a test of whether a pay strategy is a source of competitive advantage?

(p. 50)

- A. Alignment with business strategy
- B. Cost effectiveness
- C. Differentiation
- D. Adding value

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #33

34. Which of the following is not one of the tests to determine if a pay strategy is a source of competitive advantage?

(p. 50-52)

- A. Alignment of the pay system with the organization's business strategy
- B. Differentiation of an organization's strategy from its competitors
- C. Internal alignment of the pay strategy with the organization's strategy
- D. External competitiveness of the pay system

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #34

35. Which of the following is the easiest test to pass?

(p. 50)

- A. Alignment
- B. Differentiation
- C. Integration
- D. Adding value

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #35

36. The alignment test

(p. 50)

- A. is difficult to imitate.
- B. is the most difficult test.
- C. helps ensure passing the differentiation test.
- D. becomes difficult if the differentiation test is not clear.

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #36

37. Trying to measure an ROI for any compensation strategy implies that

(p. 52)

- A. it is possible to align and differentiate and still fail to add value.
- B. people are "human capital," similar to other factors of production.
- C. adding value is the most difficulty test.
- D. value created as a result of costs is difficult to specify.

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #37

38. _____ is a "best practice".

(p. 53)

- A. Smaller internal pay differences
- B. Larger internal pay differences
- C. Both smaller and larger internal pay differences
- D. Neither smaller nor larger internal pay differences

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #38

39. Research investigating high-performance workplaces found that performance-based pay
(p. 54-55) _____ when combined with other high performance practices.

- A. improves attitudes and behaviors
- B. shows large productivity improvements
- C. reduces labor costs
- D. has little effect on quality

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #39

40. When organization performance declines,

(p. 55)

- A. a virtuous circle may be created.
- B. performance-based pay plans do not pay off.
- C. managers will change the pay practices.
- D. employees will work harder to improve performance.

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #40

41. Most organizations rely upon the market to determine how to pay their employees since
(p. 33) compensation strategy is uncertain and complex.

FALSE

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #41

42. When Microsoft replaced stock options with stock awards, they were asking employees to put
(p. 35) more "skin in the game".

FALSE

Difficulty: Difficult

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #42

43. Labor market-based compensation practices in countries such as China, Germany and
(p. 36) France, are likely to be less effective than in countries such as the U.S., Korea or Singapore.

TRUE

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #43

44. Strategy refers to the fundamental direction that an organization chooses.
(p. 36)

TRUE

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #44

45. An organization's strategy is defined by the tradeoffs in choices of what to do and what not to
(p. 36) do.

TRUE

Difficulty: Easy

46. In the proper sequence of strategic decisions, HR strategies are made before business unit strategies.
(p. 37)

FALSE

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #46

47. Customer-focused pay strategies are very likely to use market-based pay.
(p. 38)

FALSE

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #47

48. Compensation systems focusing on competitor labor costs typically follow a cost-cutter strategy.
(p. 38)

TRUE

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #48

49. Although three separate compensation strategies may be identified, many companies use a combination of all three.
(p. 39)

TRUE

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #49

50. Internal alignment refers to how differently levels of skills and work are paid across different organizations.
(p. 42)

FALSE

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #50

51. How an organization positions its total compensation against competitors is part of external competitiveness strategic choices.
(p. 42)

TRUE

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #51

52. One of Whole Foods' employee contributions strategic compensation choices is to seek and engage employees who are going to help the company make money.
(p. 42)

FALSE

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #52

53. What business should a company be in and how does the company win are questions that are a part of mapping a total compensation strategy.
(p. 44)

FALSE

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #53

54. The fourth step of formulating a total compensation strategy is to reassess.
(p. 43)

TRUE

Difficulty: Easy

55. Useful compensation comparisons across countries may be done by focusing on hourly wages and productivity.
(p. 44)

FALSE

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #55

56. International compensation comparisons are challenging because retirement and health care programs, paid holidays and length of work week varies across countries.
(p. 44)

TRUE

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #56

57. Compensation strategy should reflect the organization's values.
(p. 45)

TRUE

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #57

58. A major challenge in the design of future pay systems is how to better satisfy individual needs and preferences.
(p. 46)

TRUE

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #58

59. The major challenge in the design of future pay systems is reducing the pay gap between top executives and low-level employees.
(p. 46)

FALSE

Difficulty: Easy
Milkovich - Chapter 02 #59

60. Unlimited compensation choices by employees would meet with disapproval from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.
(p. 46-47)

TRUE

Difficulty: Easy
Milkovich - Chapter 02 #60

61. Offering employees choice in their compensation mix provides firms a distinct competitive advantage.
(p. 46)

FALSE

Difficulty: Difficult
Milkovich - Chapter 02 #61

62. Since unions represent such a small fraction of the labor force, their influence on pay decisions is relatively minor.
(p. 47)

FALSE

Difficulty: Medium
Milkovich - Chapter 02 #62

63. Pay systems should fit well with other HR systems.
(p. 44)

TRUE

Difficulty: Easy

64. In a high-performance system, pay strategy plays a lead, as opposed to support role.

(p. 44)

FALSE

Difficulty: Difficult

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #64

65. Work/life balance issues are part of competitiveness decisions in the pay model.

(p. 49)

TRUE

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #65

66. A compensation strategy map shows which strategy is best for an organization.

(p. 49)

FALSE

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #66

67. External competitiveness is one test of competitive advantage.

(p. 50)

FALSE

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #67

68. Benchmarking and copying best practices does not lead to competitive advantage.

(p. 50)

TRUE

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #68

69. Research on the effects of pay level showed that pay level affects financial performance while how employees are paid has no effect.

(p. 54)

FALSE

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #69

70. When an organization uses pay for performance and performance is improving, this is a virtuous circle.

(p. 54)

TRUE

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #70

71. What is strategy? How is it defined?

(p. 37)

Strategy refers to the fundamental directions that an organization chooses. An organization defines its strategy through the tradeoffs it makes in choosing what to do and what not to do.

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #71

72. Define defenders and prospectors as referred to by Miles and Snow.

(p. 39)

According to Miles and Snow, defenders are those firms that operate in stable markets and compete on cost, and prospectors are firms that are more focused on innovation and new markets.

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #72

73. What are the different levels of strategy and the strategic choices in each level?

(p. 37)

There are three levels of strategy, (i) the corporate level, (ii) the business unit level, and (iii) the functional level. At the corporate level, the fundamental strategic choice is: "What business should we be in?" At the business unit level, the choice shifts to: "How do we gain and sustain competitive advantage in this business?" At the function level the strategic choice is: "How should total compensation help this business gain and sustain competitive advantage?"

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #73

74. Compensation systems can be tailored to general business strategies. List and explain these strategies.

(p. 38)

Compensation systems can be tailored to three general business strategies:

- i. The innovator stresses new products and short response time to market trends. A supporting compensation approach places less emphasis on evaluating skills and jobs and more emphasis on incentives designed to encourage innovations.
- ii. The cost cutter's efficiency-focused strategy stresses doing more with less by minimizing costs, encouraging productivity increases, and specifying in greater detail exactly how jobs should be performed.
- iii. The customer-focused business strategy stresses delighting customers and bases employee pay on how well they do this.

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #74

75. Explain AMO theory.

(p. 40)

Boxall and Purcell find an increasingly common "very basic theory of performance" being used, which they refer to as "AMO theory":

$$P = f(A, M, O)$$

"P" is performance, which is specified to be a function (f) of three factors: "A" is ability, "M" is motivation, and "O" is opportunity.

In other words, HR systems will be most effective when roles are designed to allow employees to be involved in decisions and have an opportunity to make an impact, when employee ability is developed through selective hiring and training and development, and when the compensation system motivates employees to act on their abilities and take advantage of the opportunity to make a difference.

Difficulty: Medium

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #75

76. What are the different steps in formulating a total compensation strategy? List them in their order of occurrence.

(p. 43)

There are four steps in formulating a total compensation strategy. They are:

- i. Assess Total Compensation Implications
- ii. Map a Total Compensation Strategy
- iii. Implement Strategy
- iv. Reassess

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #76

77. List the different factors in mapping a total compensation strategy.

(p. 43)

Factors in mapping a total compensation strategy include objective, alignment, competitiveness, contributions and, management.

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #77

78. What is the first step in assessing total compensation implications?

(p. 44)

The first step in assessing total compensation implications includes an understanding of the specific industry in which the organization operates and how the organization plans to compete in that industry. This corresponds with the strategic choices in the corporate and the business unit levels: What business should we be in, and how do we win in that business?

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #78

79. What are the aspects of the alignment of pay strategies?

(p. 50)

Alignment of the pay strategy includes three aspects:

- i. align with the business strategy,
- ii. align externally with the economic and sociopolitical conditions, and
- iii. align internally within the overall HR system.

Difficulty: Easy

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #79

80. Write short notes on Virtuous and Vicious Circles.

(p. 54-55)

Virtuous Circle - Thinking of pay as part of a circle suggests that performance-based pay works best when there is success to share. An organization whose profits or market share is increasing is able to pay larger bonuses and stock awards which fairly improve employee attitudes and work behaviors, which in turn improves their performance. The circle gains upward momentum. Employees receive returns that compensate for the risks they take. And they behave like owners, since they are sharing in the organization's success.

Vicious Circle - Circles can also gain momentum going downward to become a vicious circle. When organization performance declines, performance-based pay plans do not pay off; there are no bonuses, and the value of stock declines—with potentially negative effects on organization performance. Declining organization performance increases the risks facing employees—risks of still smaller bonuses, demotions, wage cuts, and even layoffs. Unless the increased risks are offset by larger returns, the risk-return imbalance will reinforce declining employee attitudes and speed the downward spiral.

Difficulty: Difficult

Milkovich - Chapter 02 #80

Chapter 02 Strategy: The Totality of Decisions **Summary**

<u>Category</u>	<u># of Questions</u>
Difficulty: Difficult	5
Difficulty: Easy	27
Difficulty: Medium	48
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