Managing Human Resources canadian 6th Edition Belcourt Test Bank

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Chapter 2 Strategy and Human Resources Planning

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1. What is human resources planning?
 - a. a technique that identifies the critical aspects of a job
 - b. the process of anticipating and making provisions for movement of people into, within, and out of an organization
 - c. the process of setting major organizational objectives and developing comprehensive plans to achieve these objectives
 - d. the process of determining the primary direction of the firm

ANS: B REF: page 44 OBJ: 1 BLM: Key Terms

- 2. Kramer Athletic Equipment is planning the future of the organization. In this process, the firm is making decisions such as whether to maintain its current path as industry leader in the running shoe business, or branch out to include casual footwear. In addition, the company is also discussing the various needs it will have for new staff if it does choose to go in a new direction. What is Kramer Athletic Equipment doing?
 - a. strategic planning
 - b. human resources planning
 - c. applying principles of strategic human resources management
 - d. planning both its business needs and its HR needs

ANS: C REF: page 44 OBJ: 1 BLM: Application

- 3. Organization Z is planning its future. In the process, the firm is making decisions such as what type of market it wants to be the leader in and what path to take to achieve this goal. What is Organization Z doing?
 - a. strategic planning
 - b. human resources planning
 - c. performing a Markov analysis
 - d. applying principles of strategic human resources management

ANS: A REF: page 44 OBJ: 1 BLM: Application

- 4. Eldorado Electronics wants to move from the stagnant calculator industry into the smart phone industry. To do so, however, it would have to make significant changes to its approach to product development in order to gain an edge in this competitive industry. What is the smartest next step for Eldorado Electronics?
 - a. It should consider how its strategic plans will affect its HR needs.
 - b. It should engage in human resources planning.
 - c. It should apply principles of strategic human resources management.
 - d. It should consider how its strategic plans will affect HR needs and also how its current HR status will affect its strategic plans.

ANS: D	REF: page 44	OBJ: 1	BLM: Application
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5.	 HR managers must be concerned with aligning HR planning and which of the following? a. the organization's strategic plan b. the organization's marketing position c. the organization's return on its human assets d. the competitive environment 								
	ANS: A	REF: page 45	OBJ:	1	BLM: Key Terms Understanding				
6.	÷ .	to which they are uni nental scanning architecture map		-	degree to which they create strategic the following?				
	ANS: B	REF: page 53	OBJ:	3	BLM: Key Terms				
7.	A human capital archa. exempt and non-b. employee functionc. employee functiond. strategic value ar	exempt status on and wage rate on and skill level	es employ	vees according	to which of the following?				
	ANS: D	REF: page 53	OBJ:	3	BLM: Knowledge Understanding				
8.		This is an example of			the world with high-quality and g?				
	ANS: A	REF: page 45	OBJ:	1	BLM: Application				
9.	b. They have firm-sc. They have skills	ng best describes the ot directly related to a specific skills directly that are valuable but vailable to all firms.	company related to	strategy. o company stra					
	ANS: D	REF: page 56	OBJ:	3	BLM: Key Terms				
10.	on the job, the comfo work, managers, and following? a. a job satisfaction b. an environmenta c. a cultural audit d. an engagement n	ort of the working con co-workers. Smith Fr survey l analysis neasure	ditions, a rozen Foo	and their generations is most like	how its employees feel about safety al level of satisfaction with their ely performing which of the BLM: Application				
	ANS: C	REF: page 51	OBJ:	3	BLM: Application				

11.	 When an organization monitors demographic and labour market trends as well as technological and IT changes, it is most likely performing which of the following? a. a competitive environment scan b. an environment scan c. a strategic plan d. a labour market scan
	ANS: BREF: page 46 page 47OBJ: 2BLM: Key Terms
12.	The examination of the attitudes and activities of a company's workforce refers to which of the following? a. environmental scanning b. trend analysis c. a cultural audit d. behavioural modelling

ANS: C REF: page 51 OBJ: 3 BLM: Key Terms

13. What are the most important factors to consider when scanning the environment in strategic planning?

- a. the competition, customers, rival firms, new entrants, substitutes, suppliers and external labour supply
- b. the competition, the global landscape, rival firms, new entrants, substitutes, suppliers and external labour supply
- c. the competition, the global landscape, rival firms, new entrants, the business context, suppliers and external labour supply
- d. the competition, customers, rival firms, the workforce, substitutes, suppliers and external labour supply

ANS: A REF: page 46 | page 47 OBJ: 2 BLM: Understanding

- 14. What is benchmarking?
 - a. the practice of identifying employees with promotion potential
 - b. the practice of identifying performance differences with competing firms
 - c. the process of identifying the best practices of a firm in a given area and comparing your practices to their practices
 - d. the process of establishing performance standards through HRP

ANS: C REF: page 76 OBJ: 7 BLM: Key Terms

- 15. Which of the following organizations is most likely to gain a sustained competitive advantage through its people?
 - a. one in which employees' talent is organized, difficult to imitate, rare, and valuable.
 - b. one in which employees are motivated through training initiatives, pay, and fair practices
 - c. one in which employees are empowered, have promotion opportunities, and have a high morale level
 - d. one in which employees are empowered, their talent is rare and valuable, and they are motivated through training

ANS: A REF: page 71 OBJ: 7 BLM: Application

16.	 Which of the following best describes forecasting human resources needs? a. It is scientific and relatively error-free. b. It is difficult and should only be done on rare occasions. c. It should rely strictly on quantitative approaches, which utilize sophisticated analytical models. d. It estimates the number and type of people that are needed to meet organizational objectives. 								
	ANS: D	REF:	page 58	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding			
17.	Which of the followi employees?a. limited benefitsb. no job securityc. lack of trainingd. no organizational	-	-	rtcomin	ng of an organiz	ration's having to rely on part-time			
	ANS: D	REF:	pages 56-57	OBJ:	3	BLM: Understanding			
18.		oyees in ? ources ; lanning	nto data-entry p planning			in its finance division. Two weeks bry division. What mistake has the			
	ANS: B	REF:	page 58	OBJ:	3	BLM: Application			
19.		and fu				e numbers of employees currently wn as which of the following?			
	ANS: A	REF:	page 61	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms			
20.									
	ANS: D	REF:	page 61	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding			
21.	Which of the followi a. a staffing table b. a replacement ch c. a trend model d. Markov analysis	art	,			-			
	ANS: B	REF:	pages 61-62	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms			

22.	What is the process of eventually assume to a. target forecasting b. predicted change c. succession plann d. replacement sele	p-level ^g ing		ing, and	d tracking key i	ndividuals so that they may	
	ANS: C	REF:	page 62	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding	
23.	Which of the followia. product/service ofb. the number of particle of the number of particle of the number of particle of the number of the numb	lemand rt-time	-		ant when foreca	sting demand?	
	ANS: A	REF:	page 58	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding	
24.	 predict labour ne b. Trend analysis us techniques. c. Trend analysis is 	used to eds. ses orga quantit	analyze the bu nizational inde tative and mana	isiness exes and igemen	environment ar d management t t forecasts are o	nd management forecasts forecasts utilize statistical	
	ANS: C	REF:	pages 59-60	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding	
25.		nd abili g will be	ities, and it nee	ds to do	o so quickly. W	ls to hire individuals with very hich of the following aspects of	
	ANS: A	REF:	page 61	OBJ:	4	BLM: Application	
26.	Which of the followiwho resign or retire?a. a hiring freezeb. a worker loan-ouc. attritiond. termination	C		cing th	e workforce th	rough the departure of employees	
	ANS: C	REF:	page 74	OBJ:	6	BLM: Key Terms	
27.							
	ANS: A	REF:	page 75	OBJ:	6	BLM: Understanding	

28.	Which of the followa. assessing the orb. formulating straticc. developing globd. surveying employ	ganization tegy al awarene	al strategic pl		aan resources pl	lanning?
	ANS: B	REF: p	bage 64	OBJ:	5	BLM: Understanding Application
29.	One way human res of the following? a. the strategy forr b. the strategy imp c. the strategic ana d. the source of co	nulation pr lementation lysis proce	rocess on process ess	strategi	c planning is by	y providing a set of inputs into which
	ANS: C	REF: p	bage 45	OBJ:	1	BLM: Key Terms Application
30.	Organization Y is a most likely make de a. seniority b. the payroll c. what skills and a d. talent	cide whon	n to lay off fir	st base	d on which of t	at is downsizing. Organization Y will he following?
	ANS: A	REF: p	bage 73	OBJ:	6	BLM: Application
31.	Which of the followa. They encompaseb. They are the basec. They are the structuredecisions.d. They provide a	s the system sic purpose ong enduri	matic monitor e of the organi ing beliefs and	ring of ization. 1 princi	external opport	
	ANS: C	REF: p	bage 46	OBJ:	1	BLM: Key Terms
32.	What is a major reasa. strategic planninb. failures in contec. cultural inconsisd. a competitive but	ng failures xt analysis stencies an	s ad conflicts	do not §	go well?	
	ANS: C	REF: p	bage 67	OBJ:	5	BLM: Key Terms
33.	Which of the follow influencing the orgaa. demand forecasb. environmental sc. exception reportd. influence analys	nization? ting canning ting	refers to the s	ystema	tic, regular moi	nitoring of major external forces
	ANS: B	REF: p	bage 46	OBJ:	2	BLM: Key Terms

34.	goes smoothly in tha. plan labour supb. systematically rc. teach employee	e beginning? ply needs for both o monitor employee m s about the other org	rganizations lorale for both organi	
	ANS: D	REF: page 68	OBJ: 5	BLM: Understanding
35.	Which of the follow workforce?a. environmental sb. trend analysisc. a cultural auditd. behavioural model	scanning	the examination of th	e attitudes and activities of a company's
	ANS: C	REF: page 51	OBJ: 3	BLM: Key Terms
36.	b. culture, clarity,c. culture, compet	ities, and composition and composure		
	ANS: A	REF: page 50	OBJ: 3	BLM: Key Terms
37.		its competitors and contract of the second sec	ntegrated knowledge leliver value to custo	e sets within an organization that mers?
	ANS: B	REF: page 52	OBJ: 3	BLM: Key Terms
38.	b. They have firmc. They have skill	ue skills directly lin	ked to the company's tly related to compar ut not unique.	s strategy.
	ANS: A	REF: page 53	OBJ: 3	BLM: Key Terms Understanding
39.	 organization and per a. Large businesses bureaucracy and b. Large businesses 	cople strategies? es are constrained by d can change faster. es have more strateg	v existing internal pro y to align; small busi	sinesses in terms of alignment between ocesses; small business have less messes keep it simple. ses can keep a closer eye on fewer

d. Large businesses have more overhead and constraints; small businesses are leaner and meaner.

ANS: A	REF: page 80	OBJ: 7	BLM: Understanding
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40.		ividuals of function of externation of internation	who excel inde onal strategy al fit al fit			re important in their strategy but ble of which of the following?
	ANS: C	REF:	page 70	OBJ:	5	BLM: Understanding
41.	What is at the centrea. shared valuesb. strategyc. styled. systems	of the 7-	-S Model?			
	ANS: A	REF:	page 71	OBJ:	6	BLM: Understanding
42.	upholstery fabrics fo Asia. It has also dete public transit seats. I Fabrics need to figur	r automo rmined t n order t e out ney at its ma nt needs rm a reve	obiles. The com hat it is missin o complete a S xt? ijor threat is the to address the enue analysis i	npany b ag an op SWOT a e econc compa n order	believes its wea oportunity by no analysis, what p omic downturn ny's major wea to see what ch	ances it can take.
	ANS: A BLM: Application	REF:	page 65 page	66		OBJ: 5
43.	Which of the followia. It is usually onlyb. It is a workforcec. It discourages cod. It leaves more ta	attrition	ful during time strategy. employees.	es of ec	onomic crisis.	
	ANS: B	REF:	page 74	OBJ:	6	BLM: Understanding
44.	Which of the followia. Markov analysisb. SWOT analysisc. benchmarkingd. using a balanced	C		asuring	a firm's strateg	ic alignment?
	ANS: D	REF:	page 77	OBJ:	7	BLM: Key Terms
45.	Which of the followingorder to ensure stratea. target forecastingb. predicted focusc. balanced scorecandd. replacement sele	egic align g ard		nthusia	stically adopted	l tool for mapping a firm's strategy in
	ANS: C	REF:	page 77	OBJ:	7	BLM: Key Terms

TRUE/FALSE

- 1. HR planning is the process of setting major organizational objectives and developing comprehensive plans to achieve those objectives.
 - ANS: F REF: page 44 OBJ: 1 BLM: Key Terms
- 2. The number of hours that Canadians work per week has been trending downward and now hovers around 33 hours a week.
 - ANS: T REF: page 50 OBJ: 1 BLM: Understanding
- 3. Nearly one-fifth of the workforce is made up of part-time, temporary, and self-employed workers.
 - ANS: T REF: page 49 OBJ: 1 BLM: Key Terms
- 4. Organizational core values are the strong enduring beliefs and principles that a company uses as a foundation for its decisions.
 - ANS: T REF: page 46 OBJ: 1 BLM: Understanding
- 5. Increased emphasis on HR issues becomes especially critical when organizations consider global strategies, relocation of plants, product innovation plans, and so forth.
 - ANS: T REF: page 44 OBJ: 1 BLM: Understanding
- 6. Human resources planning plays a key role in organizational strategy implementation because organizational leaders must make decisions regarding resource allocations to human capital, among other things.
 - ANS: T REF: page 45 OBJ: 1 BLM: Understanding
- 7. In general, contract labour possesses skills and knowledge of less strategic value to the organization than core knowledge workers.

ANS: T REF: page 54 OBJ: 3 BLM: Understanding

8. Strategic plans have a strong external orientation that covers major portions of the organization, focusing mainly on how the organization will position itself globally.

ANS: F REF: page 44 OBJ: 1 BLM: Understanding

9. Internal fit (or alignment) means that HR practices are aligned with one another in a mutually reinforcing configuration.

ANS: T REF: page 70 OBJ: 5 BLM: Key Terms

- 10. Environmental scanning involves the systematic monitoring of internal factors influencing the organization.
 - ANS: F REF: page 46 OBJ: 2 BLM: Key Terms | Understanding

11.	Organizations such as Canadian Tire and CIBC conduct cultural audits to examine the attitudes and activities of the external workforce.							
	ANS: F	REF:	page 51	OBJ:	3	BLM: Key Terms		
12.	A cultural audit asks	questic	ons such as "Wl	nat is th	e ethnic make-	up of my workforce?"		
	ANS: F	REF:	pages 51-53	OBJ:	3	BLM: Understanding		
13.	A cultural audit asks	questic	ons such as "Ho	w do ei	mployees spend	l their time?"		
	ANS: T	REF:	page 51	OBJ:	3	BLM: Understanding		
14.	Core competencies a from its competitors	•			•	n an organization that distinguish it		
	ANS: T	REF:	page 52	OBJ:	2	BLM: Understanding		
15.	The utilization of ad workers and less der				· •	by more demand for low-skilled		
	ANS: F	REF:	page 58	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding		
16.	There are two approx	aches to	HR forecasting	g: quan	titative and qua	litative.		
	ANS: T	REF:	page 58	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding		
17.	The mission stateme	nt of an	organization is	s a desc	ription of the or	rganization's vision and values.		
	ANS: F	REF:	page 45	OBJ:	1	BLM: Key Terms		
18.	Forecasting may be a needs.	as infor	mal as having o	one pers	on familiar wit	h the organization anticipate HR		
	ANS: T	REF:	page 60	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms		
19.	Trend analysis is a q	ualitativ	ve approach to l	abour c	lemand forecas	ting.		
	ANS: F	REF:	page 59	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms		
20.	Trend analysis relies	s on a si	ngle business fa	actor.				
	ANS: T	REF:	page 59	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms		
21.	Management forecas	sts are q	uantitative mea	sureme	nts of future en	nployment needs.		
	ANS: F	REF:	page 60	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding		
22.	The Delphi techniqu levels.	e works	best in organiz	zations	where dynamic	technological changes affect staffing		
	ANS: T	REF:	page 60	OBJ:	2	BLM: Understanding Application		

23.	Staffing tables provid	le data	on external lab	our sup	ply sources.	
	ANS: F	REF:	page 61	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding
24.	Markov analysis is a	system	atic monitoring	of the	major external	forces influencing an organization.
	ANS: F	REF:	page 61	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms
25.	Markov analysis focu compensation, and jo			employ	ees in particula	r jobs and their skill levels,
	ANS: F	REF:	page 61	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding
26.	Succession planning may eventually assur			fying, o	developing, and	l tracking key individuals so that they
	ANS: T	REF:	page 62	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms
27.	National and regiona	l unemp	ployment rates	are ofte	n considered a	general barometer of labour supply.
	ANS: T	REF:	page 50	OBJ:	2	BLM: Key Terms
28.	Human Resources De and demand for labor	-	nent Canada (H	RSDC) analyzes labo	ur markets to determine the supply
	ANS: T	REF:	page 50	OBJ:	2	BLM: Key Terms
20		_				
29.	Attrition and early re	tiremen	t are means for	organi	zations to redu	ce excess labour.
29.	Attrition and early re ANS: T		t are means for page 72	organi OBJ:		ce excess labour. BLM: Understanding Application
29. 30.	ANS: T	REF: ivity as	page 72 sociated with a	OBJ:	6	
	ANS: T The stages of HR act	REF: ivity as essmen	page 72 sociated with a	OBJ: merger	6 are (1) precon	BLM: Understanding Application
30.	ANS: T The stages of HR act solidification and ass	REF: ivity as essmen REF:	page 72 sociated with a t. pages 67-68	OBJ: merger OBJ:	6 • are (1) precon 5	BLM: Understanding Application abination, (2) combination, and (3) BLM: Understanding Application
30.	ANS: T The stages of HR act solidification and ass ANS: T	REF: ivity as essmen REF: loyee la	page 72 sociated with a t. pages 67-68	OBJ: merger OBJ:	6 are (1) precon 5 d on seniority a	BLM: Understanding Application abination, (2) combination, and (3) BLM: Understanding Application
30.	ANS: T The stages of HR act solidification and ass ANS: T Decisions about emp ANS: T	REF: ivity as essmen REF: loyee la REF: veremph	page 72 sociated with a t. pages 67-68 nyoffs are usual page 73 nasizing seniori	OBJ: merger OBJ: ly base OBJ: ty is tha	6 are (1) precon 5 d on seniority a 4 at less compete	BLM: Understanding Application abination, (2) combination, and (3) BLM: Understanding Application and/or performance.
30. 31.	ANS: T The stages of HR act solidification and ass ANS: T Decisions about emp ANS: T A disadvantage of ov	REF: ivity as essmen REF: loyee la REF: reremption	page 72 sociated with a t. pages 67-68 nyoffs are usual page 73 nasizing seniori	OBJ: merger OBJ: ly base OBJ: ty is tha	6 are (1) precon 5 d on seniority a 4 at less competents.	BLM: Understanding Application abination, (2) combination, and (3) BLM: Understanding Application and/or performance. BLM: Key Terms
30. 31.	ANS: T The stages of HR act solidification and ass ANS: T Decisions about emp ANS: T A disadvantage of ov rewards and security	REF: ivity as essmen REF: loyee la REF: veremph as more REF:	page 72 sociated with a t. pages 67-68 ayoffs are usual page 73 aasizing seniori e competent en page 73	OBJ: merger OBJ: ly base OBJ: ty is tha uployee OBJ:	 6 are (1) precon 5 d on seniority a 4 at less competenders. 6 	BLM: Understanding Application abination, (2) combination, and (3) BLM: Understanding Application and/or performance. BLM: Key Terms nt employees receive the same
30.31.32.	ANS: T The stages of HR act solidification and ass ANS: T Decisions about emp ANS: T A disadvantage of ov rewards and security ANS: T	REF: ivity as essmen REF: loyee la REF: as more REF: t way to	page 72 sociated with a t. pages 67-68 ayoffs are usual page 73 aasizing seniori e competent en page 73	OBJ: merger OBJ: ly base OBJ: ty is tha uployee OBJ:	 6 are (1) precon 5 d on seniority a 4 at less competends. 6 duction. 	BLM: Understanding Application abination, (2) combination, and (3) BLM: Understanding Application and/or performance. BLM: Key Terms nt employees receive the same
30.31.32.	ANS: T The stages of HR act solidification and ass ANS: T Decisions about emp ANS: T A disadvantage of ov rewards and security ANS: T Attrition is the fastes ANS: F	REF: ivity as essmen REF: loyee la REF: ceremph as more REF: t way to REF: urces pl	page 72 sociated with a t. pages 67-68 ayoffs are usual page 73 assizing seniori e competent em page 73 o achieve workf page 74 anning, organiz	OBJ: merger OBJ: ly base OBJ: ty is tha ployee OBJ: Corce re OBJ:	 6 are (1) precon 5 d on seniority a 4 at less compete s. 6 duction. 6 	BLM: Understanding Application abination, (2) combination, and (3) BLM: Understanding Application and/or performance. BLM: Key Terms ant employees receive the same BLM: Understanding

35.	Under the umbrella c reduced shifts, transf	•	U			option	s: reduced workweek,
	ANS: T	REF:	page 73	OBJ:	6	BLM:	Understanding
36.	The use of part-time	employ	rees creates a pr	roblem	of labour costs	at fast :	food restaurants.
	ANS: F	REF:	page 69	OBJ:	5	BLM:	Understanding
37.	Over time, organizati	ions ma	y try to reduce	their w	orkforce by rel	ying on	attrition.
	ANS: F	REF:	page 74	OBJ:	6	BLM:	Understanding
38.	Severance pay is a lu	mp-sur	n payment give	n to ter	minated emplo	yees.	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 75	OBJ:	6	BLM:	Key Terms
39.	Benchmarking is the other companies.	process	s of comparing	the org	anization's pro	cesses a	and practices with those of
	ANS: T	REF:	page 76	OBJ:	5	BLM:	Understanding
40.	Human resources pla a strategic plan.	nning (HRP) is the co	nductin	g of recruitmen	t and se	election methods according to
	ANS: F	REF:	page 44	OBJ:	1	BLM:	Key Terms
41.	Economic factors in	environ	mental scannin	ıg inclu	de general and	global (conditions.
	ANS: T	REF:	pages 46-47	OBJ:	2	BLM:	Key Terms
42.	External supply of la	bour is	central to strate	egic pla	nning.		
	ANS: F	REF:	page 50	OBJ:	2	BLM:	Application Understanding
43.	Internal analysis prov resources.	vides st	rategic decisior	n maker	s with an inven	tory of	organizational skills and
	ANS: T	REF:	page 50	OBJ:	3	BLM:	Key Terms Understanding
44.	A cultural audit may	examir	he how people a	are emp	owered.		
	ANS: T	REF:	pages 51-52	OBJ:	3	BLM:	Key Terms Application
45.	Core competencies p service delivery.	rovide	a long-term bas	sis for te	echnological in	novatio	n, product development, and
	ANS: T	REF:	page 52	OBJ:	3	BLM:	Key Terms
46.	Replacement charts a occurs.	are listii	ngs of current j	obholde	ers who are pote	ential re	eplacements if an opening
	ANS: T	REF:	page 62	OBJ:	4	BLM:	Key Terms

47. SWOT analysis includes the strengths only for strategy formulation purposes.

	ANS: F	REF: page 65	OBJ: 4	BLM: Key Terms
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- 48. In unionized firms, layoffs are typically based on performance.
 - ANS: F REF: page 73 OBJ: 6 BLM: Key Terms | Understanding
- 49. Value creation is what the firm adds to a product or service by virtue of making it; it's the amount of benefits provided by the product or service once the costs of making it are subtracted.

ANS: T REF: page 68 OBJ: 6 BLM: Understanding

ESSAY

1. Describe how human resources planning is integrated with strategic planning.

ANS:

Through strategic planning, organizations set major objectives and develop plans to achieve those objectives. HRP provides a set of inputs that determine what is or is likely to be possible, given the number of available people, training needs, and other people-related issues. HR strategies and action plans are developed according to the overall strategic goals that evolve from the strategy formulation process. During the strategy implementation phase, HRP must make resource allocation decisions, and implement policy, practices, and training that support the decisions and outcomes of the strategic planning process.

REF: pages 44-46 OBJ: 1 BLM: Understanding

2. Describe the three key elements of the HRP model.

ANS:

The three key elements in the HR planning process are (1) forecasting demand, (2) forecasting supply, and (3) balancing supply and demand considerations.

Forecasting demand involves estimating in advance the number and type of people needed to meet organizational objectives. It may involve a quantitative approach using statistical analysis and mathematical models or a qualitative approach focusing on employee performance and promotability. Forecasting supply determines if there are sufficient numbers and types of employees available to staff anticipated openings. Sources of supply can be external or internal.

HR planning should strive for a proper balance between the emphasis placed on demand considerations and that placed on supply considerations. Demand considerations are based on the forecast of trends in business activity. Supply considerations involve the determination of where and how candidates with the required qualifications are to be found to fill vacancies.

REF: page 57 OBJ: 4 BLM: Key Terms

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3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using attrition as a downsizing strategy?

ANS:

The primary advantage of using attrition (combined with a hiring freeze) is the ability to control and predict compensation expenses that go beyond the salaries and benefits redeemed from departing employees. When the organization does not replace departing employees, the reduction in recruitment, orientation and training, office space costs, and so forth, can result in substantial savings. However, the disadvantages of attrition are significant. Current employees may be overburdened with the work of departing employees; their skills may not match the skill sets of the departed workers; and no new skills or ideas are infiltrating the organization. In addition, the organization is unable to control who leaves and who stays, which may result in valuable employees leaving, while less needed ones remain. Attrition also poses the disadvantage of taking a long time, compared to processes that can be accomplished rapidly, such as layoffs.

REF: page 74 OBJ: 6 BLM: Understanding

4. Identify and briefly describe three strategies that managers frequently use to cope with a labour shortage.

ANS:

(1) Overtime (i.e., asking employees to work extra hours) is a strategy used by most firms during peak periods. (2) Increasingly, organizations are using part-time employees to increase flexibility in scheduling and reducing payroll costs. Many organizations use part-time or contract employees to cover the absences of regular, full-time employees. (3) In addition, nine out of ten Canadian companies—both large and small—make some use of temporary employees. "Temps" are typically used for short-term assignments, vacation fill-ins, for peak work periods, or to cover for employees taking sick leave, pregnancy leave, and so forth.

REF: page 72 OBJ: 6 BLM: Understanding

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