Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test Bank

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Chapter 02 Test Bank

Student: _____

1. Which one of the following is NOT one of the five basic tasks of the strategy-making, strategy-executing process?

   A. Developing a strategic vision of where the company needs to head and what its future business makeup will be
   B. Setting objectives to convert the strategic vision into specific strategic and financial performance outcomes for the company to achieve
   C. Crafting a strategy to achieve the objectives and get the company where it wants to go
   D. Developing a profitable business model
   E. Executing the chosen strategy efficiently and effectively

2. A company's strategic plan:

   A. maps out the company's history.
   B. links the company's financial targets to control mechanisms.
   C. outlines the competitive moves and approaches to be used in achieving the desired business results.
   D. focuses on offering a more appealing product than rivals.
   E. lists methods of making money in its chosen business.

3. Which of the following is an integral part of the managerial process of crafting and executing strategy?

   A. Developing a proven business model
   B. Deciding how much of the company's resources to employ in the pursuit of sustainable competitive advantage
   C. Setting objectives and using them as yardsticks for measuring the company's performance and progress
   D. Communicating the company's values and code of conduct to all employees
   E. Deciding on the company's strategic intent

4. Which of the following are integral parts of the managerial process of crafting and executing strategy?

   A. Developing a strategic vision, setting objectives, and crafting a strategy
   B. Developing a proven business model, deciding on the company's strategic intent, and crafting a strategy
   C. Setting objectives, crafting a strategy, implementing and executing the chosen strategy, and deciding how much of the company's resources to employ in the pursuit of sustainable competitive advantage
   D. Coming up with a statement of the company's mission and purpose, setting objectives, choosing what business approaches to employ, selecting a business model, and monitoring developments
   E. Deciding on the company's strategic intent, setting financial objectives, crafting a strategy, and choosing what business approaches and operating practices to employ

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5. The strategy-making, strategy-executing process:

A. is usually delegated to members of a company's board of directors.
B. includes establishing a company's mission, developing a business model aimed at making the company an industry leader, and crafting a strategy to implement and execute the business model.
C. embraces the tasks of developing a strategic vision, setting objectives, crafting a strategy, implementing and executing the strategy, and then monitoring developments and initiating corrective adjustments in light of experience, changing conditions, and new opportunities.
D. is principally concerned with sizing up an organization's internal and external situation, so as to be prepared for the challenges of developing a sound business model.
E. is primarily the responsibility of top executives and the board of directors; very few managers below this level are involved in the process.

6. A company's strategic vision describes:

A. "who we are and what we do."
B. why the company does certain things in trying to please its customers.
C. management's storyline of how it intends to make a profit with the chosen strategy.
D. management's aspirations for the future and the company's strategic course and long-term direction.
E. what future actions the enterprise will likely undertake to outmaneuver rivals and achieve a sustainable competitive advantage.

7. The real purpose of the company's strategic vision:

A. is management's story line for how it plans to implement and execute a profitable business model.
B. sets forth what business the company is presently in and why it uses particular operating practices in trying to please customers.
C. serves as management's tool for giving the organization a sense of direction.
D. defines "who we are and what we do."
E. spells out a company's strategic intent, its strategic and financial objectives, and the business approaches and operating practices that will underpin its efforts to achieve sustainable competitive advantage.

8. A strategic vision constitutes management's view and conclusions about the company's:

A. long-term direction and what product-market-customer mix seems optimal.
B. business model and the kind of value that it is trying to deliver to customers.
C. justification of why the business will be a moneymaker.
D. past and present scope of work.
E. long-term plan for outcompeting rivals and achieving a competitive advantage.

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9. The managerial task of developing a strategic vision for a company:

A. concerns deciding what approach the company should take to implement and execute its business model.
B. entails coming up with a fairly specific answer to "who are we, what do we do, and why are we here?"
C. is chiefly concerned with addressing what a company needs to do to successfully outcompete rivals in the marketplace.
D. involves deciding upon what strategic course a company should pursue in preparing for the future and why this directional path makes good business sense.
E. entails coming up with a concrete plan for how the company intends to make money.

10. Which of the following is NOT an accurate attribute of an organization's strategic vision?

A. Providing a panoramic view of "where we are going"
B. Outlining how the company intends to implement and execute its business model
C. Pointing an organization in a particular direction and charting a strategic path for it to follow
D. Helping mold an organization's character and identity
E. Describing the company's future product-market-customer focus

11. Management's strategic vision for an organization:

A. charts a strategic course for the organization ("where we are going") and provides a rationale for why this directional path makes good sense.
B. describes in fairly specific terms the organization's strategic objectives, and strategy.
C. spells out how the company will become a big moneymaker and boost shareholder value.
D. addresses the critical issue of "why our business model needs to change and how we plan to change it."
E. spells out the organization's strategic intent and the actions and moves that will be undertaken to achieve it.

12. Well-conceived visions are _____ and _____ to a particular organization and they avoid generic, feel-good statements that could apply to hundreds of organizations.

A. widespread; unique
B. recurring; customary
C. distinctive; specific
D. customary; familiar
E. universal; established

13. What a company's top executives are saying about where the company is headed long term and about what the company's future product-market-customer mix will be:

A. indicates what kind of business model the company is going to have in the future.
B. constitutes the strategic vision for the company.
C. signals what the firm's financial strategy will be.
D. serves to define the company's present scope of operation.
E. indicates what kind of products the company will offer in the future.

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14. One of the important benefits of a well-conceived and well-stated strategic vision is to:

A. clearly delineate how the company's business model will be implemented and executed.
B. clearly communicate management's aspirations for the company to stakeholders and help steer the energies of company personnel in a common direction.
C. set forth the firm budgetary objectives in clear and fairly precise terms.
D. help create a "balanced scorecard" approach to objective-setting and not stretch the company's resources too thin across different products, technologies, and geographic markets.
E. indicate what kind of sustainable competitive advantage the company will try to create in the course of becoming the industry leader.

15. The defining characteristic of a well-conceived strategic vision is:

A. what it says about the company's future strategic course—"the direction we are headed and what our future product-market-customer focus will be."
B. that it not stretch the company's resources too thin across different products, technologies, and geographic markets.
C. clarity and specificity about "who we are, what we do, and why we are here."
D. that it be flexible and operate in the mainstream.
E. that it be within the realm of what the company can reasonably expect to achieve within four years.

16. Which of the following questions is NOT pertinent to company managers in thinking strategically about what directional path should be taken by the company and about developing a strategic vision?

A. Is the outlook for the company promising if it continues with its present product offerings?
B. Are changing market and competitive conditions acting to enhance or weaken the company's prospects?
C. What business approaches and operating practices should we consider in trying to implement and execute our business model?
D. What strategic course offers attractive opportunity for growth and profitability?
E. What, if any, new customer groups and/or geographic markets should the company get in position to serve?

17. Which of the following questions is NOT something that company managers should consider in choosing to pursue one strategic course or directional path versus another?

A. Are changing market and competitive conditions acting to enhance or weaken the company's business outlook?
B. Is the company stretching its resources too thinly by trying to compete in too many markets or segments, some of which are unprofitable?
C. Will our present business generate sufficient growth and profitability in the years ahead to please shareholders?
D. What market opportunities should the company pursue and which ones should not be pursued?
E. Do we have a better business model than key rivals?

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18. Which of the following are characteristics of an effectively worded strategic vision statement?

A. Balanced, responsible, and rational
B. Challenging, competitive, and "set in concrete"
C. Graphic, directional, and focused
D. Realistic, customer-focused, and market-driven
E. Achievable, profitable, and ethical

19. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of an effectively worded strategic vision statement?

A. Directional (is forward-looking, describes the strategic course that management has charted that will help the company prepare for the future)
B. Easy to communicate (is explainable in 5–10 minutes, and can be reduced to a memorable slogan)
C. Graphic (paints a picture of the kind of company management is trying to create and the market position(s) the company is striving to stake out)
D. Consensus-driven (commits the company to a "mainstream" directional path that almost all stakeholders will enthusiastically support)
E. Focused (provides guidance to managers in making decisions and allocating resources)

20. Which of the following is NOT a common shortcoming when wording a company's vision statement? When the statement is somewhat:

A. vague or incomplete—short on specifics.
B. flexible—is adjusted according to changing circumstances.
C. bland or uninspiring—short on inspiration.
D. generic—could apply to almost any company (or at least several others in the same industry).
E. reliant on superlatives (best, most successful, recognized leader, global or worldwide leader, first choice of customers).

21. Which of the following ARE common shortcomings of company vision statements?

A. Too specific and too flexible
B. Unrealistic, unconventional, and un-businesslike
C. Too broad, vague or incomplete, bland/uninspiring, not distinctive, and too reliant on superlatives
D. Too graphic, too narrow, and too risky
E. Not customer-driven, out of step with emerging technological trends, and too ambitious

22. Breaking down resistance to a new strategic vision typically requires that management, on an as needed basis:

A. institute a balanced scorecard approach to measuring company performance, with the "balance" including a mixture of both old and new performance measures.
B. inform company personnel about forthcoming changes in the company's strategy.
C. reiterate the company's need for the new direction, while addressing employee concerns head-on, calming fears, lifting spirits, and providing them with updates and progress reports as events unfold.
D. explain all updates and merits of the company's business model to align strategy with employee concerns.
E. raise wages and salaries to win the support of company personnel for the company's new direction.

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23. An engaging and convincing strategic vision:

A. ought to put "who we were and what we are doing" in writing rather than orally so as to leave no room for company personnel to misinterpret what the strategic vision really is.
B. should be done in language that inspires and motivates company personnel to unite behind executive efforts to get the company moving in the intended direction.
C. tends to be more effective when top management avoids trying to capture the essence of the strategic vision in a catchy slogan.
D. is most efficiently and effectively done by posting the strategic vision prominently on the company's website and encouraging employees to read it.
E. should be explained after the company's strategic intent, strategy, and business model have been conveyed to company personnel.

24. The managerial task of effectively conveying the essence of the strategic vision is made easier by:

A. having operating strategies that are easy for company personnel to understand and execute.
B. combining the strategic vision and the company's values statement into a single document.
C. adopting a catchy slogan and then using it repeatedly to illuminate the direction and purpose of "where we are headed and why."
D. waiting until the company realizes its mission and ensures the existing corporate culture is compatible with the new vision and direction.
E. distributing written statements that explain "where we are going and why."

25. Effectively communicating the strategic vision down the line to lower-level managers and employees has the value of:

A. inspiring company personnel to unite behind managerial efforts to get the company moving in the intended direction.
B. helping company personnel understand why "making a profit" is so important.
C. making it easier for top executives to set stretch objectives.
D. helping lower-level managers and employees better understand the company's business model.
E. helping the management in formulating a balanced scorecard.

26. Perhaps the most important benefit of a vivid, engaging, and convincing strategic vision is:

A. helping gain managerial consensus on what resources must be developed to successfully achieve strategic objectives.
B. uniting company personnel behind managerial efforts to get the company moving in the intended direction.
C. helping justify the company's mission of making a profit.
D. helping company personnel understand the logic of the company's business model.
E. keeping company personnel well-informed.

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27. A sound, well-communicated strategic vision matters, and the related payoffs occur in several respects, EXCEPT in connection with:

A. reducing the risks of rudderless decision-making.
B. helping the organization prepare for the future.
C. avoiding strategic inflection points and management's reaction in aligning decision choices.
D. helping to crystallize top management's own view about the firm's long-term direction.
E. providing a tool for winning the support of organizational members for internal changes that will help make the vision a reality.

28. Which of the following is NOT the result of a well-conceived and communicated strategic vision?

A. Senior executives solidify their own view of the firm's long-term direction.
B. The risk of rudderless decision-making is minimized.
C. Organizational members support the changes internally that will help make the vision a reality.
D. The vision assists the organization in preparing for the future.
E. Stockholders protest that the business is rudderless.

29. A company's mission statement typically addresses which of the following questions?

A. Who are we and what do we do?
B. What objectives and level of performance do we want to achieve?
C. Where are we going and what should our strategy be?
D. What approach should we take to achieve sustainable competitive advantage?
E. What business model should we employ to achieve our objectives and our vision?

30. The difference between the concept of a company mission statement and the concept of a strategic vision is that:

A. a mission concerns what to do to achieve short-term objectives, while a strategic vision concerns what to do to achieve long-term performance targets.
B. a mission statement focuses on the methods needed to make a profit, whereas a strategic vision concerns what business model to employ in striving to make a profit.
C. a mission statement deals with what to accomplish on behalf of shareholders, while a strategic vision concerns what to accomplish on behalf of customers.
D. a mission statement typically concerns a company's purpose and its present business scope, whereas the principal concern of a strategic vision is a company's aspirations for its future.
E. a mission statement deals with "where we are headed," whereas a strategic vision provides the critical answer to "how will we get there?"

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31. The primary difference between a company's mission statement and the company's strategic vision is that:

A. a mission statement explains why it is essential to make a profit, whereas the strategic vision explains how the company will be a moneymaker.
B. a mission statement typically concerns a company's present business scope and purpose, whereas a strategic vision sets forth "where we are going and why."
C. a mission deals with how to please customers, whereas a strategic vision deals with how to please shareholders.
D. a mission statement deals with "where we are headed," whereas a strategic vision provides the critical answer to "how will we get there?"
E. a mission statement addresses "how we are trying to make a profit today," while a strategic vision concerns "how will we make money in the markets of tomorrow?"

32. A company's mission statement does NOT:

A. identify the company's services and products.
B. specify the buyer's needs that the company seeks to satisfy.
C. identify the customer or market that the company intends to serve.
D. give the company its own identity.
E. explain "where we are headed."

33. A company should not couch its mission in terms of making a profit because a profit is more correctly an:

A. obligation and a reason for what a company does.
B. objective and a result of what a company does.
C. outlay and a rationale for what a company does.
D. obligation and a responsibility for what a company does.
E. outflow and a right of what a company does.

34. A company's values or core values concern:

A. whether and to what extent it intends to operate in an ethical and socially responsible manner.
B. how aggressively it will seek to maximize profits and enforce high ethical standards.
C. the beliefs and operating principles built into the company's "balanced scorecard" for measuring performance.
D. the beliefs, traits, and behavioral norms that company personnel are expected to display in conducting the company's business and pursuing its strategic vision and mission.
E. the beliefs, principles, and ethical standards that are incorporated into the company's strategic intent and business model.

35. A company's values relate to such things as:

A. how it will balance its pursuit of financial objectives against the pursuit of its strategic objectives.
B. how it will balance the pursuit of its business purpose/mission against the pursuit of its strategic vision.
C. fair treatment, integrity, ethical behavior, innovativeness, teamwork, top-notch quality, superior customer service, social responsibility, and community citizenship.
D. whether it will emphasize stock price appreciation or higher dividend payments to shareholders
E. whether it will put more emphasis on the achievement of short-term performance targets or long-range performance targets.

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36. The managerial purpose of setting objectives includes all of the following EXCEPT:

A. converting the strategic vision into specific performance targets—results and outcomes the organization wants to achieve.
B. using the objectives as yardsticks for tracking the company's progress and performance.
C. challenging and helping stretch the organization to perform at its full potential and deliver the best possible results.
D. pushing company personnel to be more inventive and to exhibit more urgency in improving the company's financial performance and business position.
E. delineating management's aspirations for the business and providing a panoramic view of "where we are going."

37. Well-stated objectives are:

A. quantifiable or measurable, and contain deadlines for achievement.
B. succinct and concise so as to identify the company's risk and return options.
C. broad and take into account views of all the stakeholders.
D. directly related to the dividend payout ratio for stockholder returns.
E. representative of customers' aspirations for company performance.

38. What does a company specifically exhibit when it relentlessly pursues an ambitious strategic objective, concentrating the full force of its resources and competitive actions on achieving that objective?

A. Competitive edge.
B. Sustainable advantage.
C. Strategic intent.
D. Financial strength.
E. Strategic vision.

39. A company exhibits strategic intent when:

A. management crafts and adopts a strategic plan.
B. it relentlessly pursues an ambitious strategic objective, concentrating the full force of its resources and competitive actions on achieving that objective.
C. it aggressively pursues financial objectives, establishing a priority on meeting the performance metrics and instilling a sense of urgency throughout the company.
D. management establishes a comprehensive set of financial objectives that meet stockholder expectations.
E. it capitalizes on its primary competitive advantage and ensures resources are allocated to maintain its strategy.

40. Managers can deliberately set challenging performance targets at levels high enough to promote outstanding company performance by establishing:

A. stretch objectives which challenge the organization to deliver stretch gains in performance.
B. mainstay objectives that although are easily attainable, and the company is obligated to meet, they are designed to spur motivation in the workforce.
C. financial objectives that drive standardization of cost-efficiency and unify stringent operating specifications.
D. a specifically detailed and integrated model of operating policies, practices, and procedures.
E. why the company does certain things in trying to please its customers.

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41. A company needs financial objectives to:

A. spur company personnel to help the company overtake key competitors on such important measures as net profit margins and return on investment.
B. communicate management's targets for financial performance and achieve strategic objectives.
C. indicate to employees whether the emphasis should be on earnings per share, return on investment, return on assets, or positive cash flow.
D. convince shareholders that top management is acting in their interests.
E. counterbalance its pursuit of strategic objectives and have a balanced scorecard for judging the caliber of its overall performance.

42. Which of the following is the best example of a well-stated financial objective?

A. Increase earnings per share by 15 percent annually.
B. Gradually boost market share from 10 percent to 15 percent over the next several years.
C. Achieve lower costs than any other industry competitor.
D. Boost revenues by a percentage margin greater than the industry average.
E. Maximize total company profits and return on investment.

43. Which of the following is the best example of a well-stated strategic objective?

A. Increase revenues by more than the industry average.
B. Be among the top five companies in the industry in customer service.
C. Overtake key competitors on product performance or quality within three years.
D. Improve manufacturing performance by 5 percent within 12 months.
E. Obtain 150 new customers during the current fiscal year.

44. Strategic objectives:

A. are more essential in achieving a company's strategic vision than are financial objectives.
B. relate to strengthening a company's overall market standing and competitive position.
C. are more difficult to achieve and harder to measure than financial objectives.
D. are generally less important than financial objectives.
E. help managers track an organization's true progress better than financial objectives.

45. Adopting a set of "stretch" financial and "stretch" strategic objectives:

A. pushes the company to strive for lesser but adequate profitability levels, because the stretch objectives are considered unattainable.
B. is a widely held method for creating a "scorecard" for monitoring company performance.
C. helps convert the mission statement into meaningful company values.
D. challenges company personnel to execute the strategy with greater enthusiasm, proficiency, and understanding.
E. is an effective tool for pushing the company to perform at its full potential and deliver the best possible results.

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46. Which of the following is NOT an advantage of setting "stretch" objectives?

A. Helping to avoid mediocre results
B. Pushing company personnel to be more inventive and innovative
C. Helping clarify the company's strategic vision and strategic intent
D. Helping a company be more focused and intentional in its actions
E. Spurring exceptional performance and helping build a firewall against contentment with modest performance gains

47. Strategic intent refers to a situation where a company:

A. commits to using a particular business model to make money.
B. decides to adopt a particular strategy.
C. relentlessly pursues an ambitious strategic objective.
D. commits to pursuing balanced-scorecard objectives.
E. changes its long-term direction and decides to pursue a newly adopted strategic vision.

48. A "balanced scorecard" for measuring company performance:

A. entails putting *equal* emphasis on financial and strategic objectives.
B. entails putting *balanced* emphasis on profit and non-profit objectives.
C. prevents the drive for achieving financial objectives from overwhelming the pursuit of strategic objectives.
D. prevents the drive for achieving strategic objectives from overwhelming the pursuit of financial objectives.
E. strikes a "balance" between financial and strategic objectives.

49. A "balanced scorecard" that includes both strategic and financial performance targets is a conceptually strong approach for judging a company's overall performance because:

A. it assists managers in putting roughly equal emphasis on short-term and long-term performance targets.
B. it entails putting *equal* emphasis on good strategy execution and good business model execution.
C. a balanced-scorecard approach pushes managers to avoid setting objectives that reflect the results of past decisions and organizational activities.
D. financial performance measures are lagging indicators that reflect the results of past decisions and organizational activities, whereas strategic performance measures are leading indicators of a company's future financial performance and business prospects.
E. it forces managers to put *equal* emphasis on financial and strategic objectives.

50. Perhaps the most reliable way for a company to improve its financial performance over time is to:

A. put 100 percent emphasis on the achievement of its short-term and long-term financial objectives.
B. recognize that the achievement of strategic objectives signals that the company is well positioned to sustain or improve its performance.
C. substitute financial intent for strategic intent and judiciously concentrate on the mission of making a profit.
D. not allocate any resources to the achievement of strategic objectives until it is very clear that the company can meet or beat its stretch financial performance targets.
E. avoid use of the balanced-scorecard philosophy since achievement of financial performance targets is obviously more important than the achievement of strategic performance targets.

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51. A company that pursues and achieves strategic objectives:

A. is likely to weaken the achievement of its short-term and long-term financial objectives.
B. believes that the company's financial performance is not as important as it really is.
C. is generally not strongly focused on its true mission of making a profit.
D. is frequently in a better position to improve its future financial performance because of the increased competitiveness that flows from the achievement of strategic objectives.
E. is likely to be a weak financial performer because diverting resources to the pursuit of strategic objectives takes away from the achievement of financial performance targets.

52. A company needs performance targets or objectives:

A. to help guide managers in deciding what strategic path to take in the event that a strategic inflection point is encountered.
B. because they give the company clear-cut strategic intent.
C. in order to unify the company's strategic vision and business model.
D. for its operations as a whole and also for each of its separate businesses, product lines, functional departments, and individual work units.
E. in order to prevent lower-level organizational units from establishing their own objectives.

53. Company objectives:

A. are needed only in those areas directly related to a company's short-term and long-term profitability.
B. need to be broken down into performance targets for each of its organizational levels—for separate businesses, product lines, functional departments, and individual work units.
C. play the important role of establishing the direction in which it needs to be headed.
D. are important because they help guide managers in deciding what the company's strategic intent should be.
E. should be set in a manner that does not conflict with the performance targets of lower-level organizational units.

54. When trade-offs have to be made between achieving long-term and achieving short-term objectives:

A. long-term objectives should take precedence unless the short-term performance targets have unique importance.
B. long-term objectives should take precedence because of the need for future survival.
C. short-term objectives should take precedence because they focus attention on delivering performance improvement.
D. short-term objectives should take precedence unless the long-term performance targets are not achievable.
E. long-term objectives should never take precedence until the short-term objective is achieved.

55. The task of stitching together a strategy:

A. entails addressing a series of *hows*: how to grow the business, how to please customers, how to outcompete rivals, how to respond to changing market conditions, and how to achieve strategic and financial objectives.
B. is primarily an exercise in deciding which of several freshly emerging market opportunities to pursue.
C. is mainly an exercise that should be dictated by what is comfortable to management from a risk perspective and what is acceptable in terms of capital requirements.
D. requires trying to copy the strategies of industry leaders as closely as possible.
E. is mainly an exercise in good planning.

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56. Masterful strategies come from:

A. successful managerial efforts to develop a sound strategic vision.
B. doing a very thorough job of strategic planning.
C. involving as many company personnel as possible in the strategy-making process.
D. crafting a strategy that mimics the best parts of the strategies of the industry leaders.
E. doing things differently from competitors where it counts rather than running with the herd.

57. The faster a company's business environment is changing only makes it imperative for strategy makers to:

A. pay attention to early warnings of future change and be willing to experiment to establish a market position in the future.
B. stay abreast of the changes by developing a comprehensive knowledge management system to monitor the environment.
C. establish controls to ensure the impact of any changes is monitored appropriately and ensure the internal environment is maintained.
D. align their decision-making with organizational unit objectives.
E. develop financial objectives that reflect the implications of change and that meet the internal environment's functional focus.

58. Strategy-making is:

A. primarily the responsibility of key executives rather than a task for a company's entire management team.
B. more of a collaborative group effort that involves all managers and sometimes key employees, as opposed to being the function and responsibility of a few high-level executives.
C. first and foremost the function and responsibility of a company's strategic planning staff.
D. first and foremost the function and responsibility of a company's board of directors.
E. first and foremost the function of a company's chief executive officer, who formulates strategic initiatives and submits them to the board of directors for approval.

59. Which of the following is NOT an accurate description of the task of crafting a company's strategy?

A. In most companies, crafting strategy is a team effort, involving managers and often key employees at many organization levels.
B. Ultimate responsibility for leading the strategy-making task rests with the chief executive officer.
C. The task of crafting strategy is best done by a company's chief strategic planning officer, who should report directly to the company's CEO and board of directors.
D. It is the responsibility and duty of a company's board of directors to ensure that new strategy proposals can be defended as superior to alternatives and, ultimately, to approve or disapprove of the strategy formulated and proposed by the company's management.
E. In most of today's companies, every company manager has a strategy-making role, ranging from major to minor, for his or her area of responsibility.

60. Managerial jobs with strategy-making responsibility:

A. extend throughout the managerial ranks and exist in every part of a company—business units, operating divisions, functional departments, manufacturing plants, and sales districts.
B. are primarily located in the strategic planning departments of large corporations.
C. are relatively rare because most strategy-making is done by the members of a company's board of directors.
D. seldom exist within a functional department (e.g., marketing and sales) or in an operating unit (a plant or a district office) because these levels of the organization structure are well below the level where strategic decisions are typically made.
E. are found only at the vice-president level and above in most companies.

61. Which of the following most accurately describes the task of crafting a company's strategy?

A. In most companies, strategy-making is the exclusive province of top management—owner-entrepreneurs, CEOs, and other very senior executives.
B. The more a company's operations cut across different products, industries, and geographical areas, the more that headquarters executives have little option but to delegate considerable strategy-making authority to down-the-line managers in charge of particular subsidiaries, product lines, geographic sales offices, and plants.
C. A company's board of directors generally takes the lead role in crafting a company's strategy.
D. In most of today's companies, the lead strategy-making role is being assumed by an elite group of corporate entrepreneurs.
E. Masterful strategies are nearly always the product of brilliant corporate entrepreneurs.

62. A company's overall strategy:

A. determines whether its strategic intent is proactive or reactive.
B. is subject to being changed much less frequently than either its objectives or its mission statement and thus serves as the base of its strategy-making pyramid.
C. should be based on a flexible strategic vision and strategic intent.
D. is customarily reviewed and approved level-by-level by the company board of directors.
E. is really a collection of strategic initiatives and actions devised by managers and key employees up and down the whole organizational hierarchy.

63. In a diversified company, the strategy-making hierarchy consists of:

A. corporate strategy and a group of business strategies (one for each line of business the corporation has diversified into).
B. corporate or managerial strategy, a set of business strategies, and divisional strategies within each business.
C. business strategies, functional strategies, and operating strategies.
D. corporate strategy, business strategies, functional strategies, and operating strategies.
E. its diversification strategy, its line of business strategies, and its operating strategies.

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64. Corporate strategy for a diversified or multibusiness enterprise:

A. is orchestrated by mid-level managers and focuses on how to create a competitive advantage in each specific line-of-business the total enterprise is in.
B. concerns how best to allocate resources across the departments of each line of business the company is in.
C. is orchestrated by senior corporate executives and centers around the kinds of initiatives the company uses to establish business positions in different industries
D. deals chiefly with what the strategic intent of each of its business units should be.
E. involves how functional strategies should be aligned with business strategies in each of the various lines of business the company is in.

65. Business strategy concerns:

A. how to gain and sustain a competitive advantage for a single line of business.
B. defining what set of businesses to be in and why.
C. selecting a business model to use in pursuing business objectives.
D. selecting a set of stretch financial and strategic objectives for a particular line of business.
E. choosing the most appropriate strategic intent for a specific line of business.

66. Business strategy, as distinct from corporate strategy, is chiefly concerned with:

A. deciding what new businesses to enter, which existing businesses to get out of, and which existing business to remain in.
B. deciding how to build competitive advantage and improve performance in a particular line of business.
C. making sure the strategic intent of a particular business is in step with the company's overall strategic intent and strategy.
D. coordinating the competitive approaches of a company's different business units.
E. what business model to employ in each of the company's different businesses.

67. Functional-area strategies:

A. concern the actions, approaches, and practices to be employed in managing particular functions within a business.
B. specify what actions a company should take to resolve specific strategic issues and problems.
C. are normally crafted by operating-level managers.
D. are concerned with how to unify the firm's several different operating strategies into a cohesive whole.
E. are normally crafted by the company's CEO and other senior executives.

68. The primary role of a functional strategy is to:

A. unify the company's various operating-level strategies.
B. specify how to build and strengthen the skills, expertise, and competencies needed to execute operating-level strategies successfully.
C. support and add power to the corporate-level strategy.
D. create compatible degrees of strategic intent among a company's different business functions.
E. determine how to support particular activities in ways that support the overall business strategy and competitive approach.

69. The primary operating strategies are concerned with:

A. what the firm's operating departments are doing and plan to do to unify the company's functional and business strategies.
B. the specific plans for building competitive advantage in each major department and operating unit.
C. how to manage initiatives of strategic significance within each functional area, and adding detail and completeness in ways that support functional strategies and the overall business strategy.
D. how best to carry out the company's corporate strategy.
E. how best to implement and execute the company's different business-level strategies.

70. In a single-business company, the strategy-making hierarchy consists of:

A. business strategy, divisional strategies, and departmental strategies.
B. business strategy, functional strategies, and operating strategies.
C. business strategy and operating strategy.
D. managerial strategy, business strategy, and divisional strategies.
E. corporate strategy, divisional strategies, and departmental strategies.

71. A company's strategic plan:

A. details key objectives and the strategy for achieving them.
B. lays out its future direction and business purpose, performance targets and strategy.
C. identifies the company's strategy and management's specific, detailed plans for implementation.
D. consists of a company's strategic vision, strategic objectives, strategic intent, and strategy.
E. summarizes the company's strategic vision, a strategy, and a business model.

72. Which of the following is NOT among the principal managerial tasks associated with managing the strategy execution process?

A. Ensuring that policies and procedures facilitate rather than impede effective execution
B. Creating a company culture and work climate conducive to successful strategy implementation and execution
C. Surveying employees' opinions on how costs can be reduced and how employee morale and job satisfaction can be improved
D. Exerting the internal leadership needed to drive implementation forward and keep improving on how the strategy is being executed
E. Motivating people and tying rewards and incentives directly to the achievement of performance objectives and good strategy execution

73. Which of the following principal aspects should be included in managing the strategy execution process?

A. Describing the strategic course that will help the company prepare for the future
B. Organizing the company along the lines of best practice
C. Surveying employees on how they think costs can be reduced and how employee morale and job satisfaction can be improved
D. Exerting the external leadership needed to drive stabilization
E. Tying rewards and incentives directly to profit

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74. Management is obligated to monitor new external developments, evaluate the company's progress, and make corrective adjustments in order to:

A. determine whether the company has a balanced scorecard for judging its performance.
B. stay on track in achieving the company's mission and strategic vision.
C. keep the company's board of directors well-informed about the company's future outlook.
D. determine whether the company's business model is well-matched to changing market and competitive circumstances.
E. decide whether to continue or change the company's strategic vision, objectives, strategy and/or strategy execution methods.

75. The leadership challenges that top executives face in making corrective adjustments when things are not going well include:

A. knowing when to replace poorly performing subordinates and when to do a better job of coaching them to do the right things.
B. being able to discern whether to promote better achievement of strategic performance targets or whether to promote better achievement of financial performance targets.
C. deciding when adjustments are needed and what adjustments to make.
D. having the analytic skills to separate the problems due to a bad strategy from the problems due to bad strategy execution.
E. deciding whether the company would be better off making adjustments that curtail the achievement of strategic objectives or that curtail the achievement of financial objectives.

76. The task of top executives when the company faces disruptive changes in its environment is to not only raise questions about the appropriateness of its direction and strategy but also to:

A. know when to continue with the present corporate culture and when to shift to a different and better corporate culture.
B. ferret out the causes and decide when adjustments are needed and what adjustments are needed for improved performance and operating excellence.
C. figure out whether to arrive at decisions quickly or slowly in choosing among the various alternative adjustments.
D. decide whether to try to fix the problems of poor strategy execution or simply shift to a strategy that is easier to execute correctly.
E. decide how to identify the problems that need fixing.

77. In the strategy-making, strategy-executing process, effective corporate governance requires a company's board of directors to:

A. play the lead role in forming the company's strategy and then directly supervising the efforts and actions of senior executives in implementing and executing the strategy.
B. provide guidance and counsel to the CEO in carrying out his/her duties as chief strategist and chief strategy implementer.
C. oversee the company's strategic direction, evaluate the caliber of senior executives' skills, handle executive compensation, and oversee financial reporting practices.
D. work closely with the CEO, senior executives, and the strategic planning staff to develop a strategic plan for the company and then oversee how well the CEO and senior executives carry out the board's directives in implementing and executing the strategic plan.
E. review and approve the company's business model and also review and approve the proposals and recommendations of the CEO as to how to execute the business model.

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78. The key duties of a company's board of directors in the strategy-making, strategy-executing process include:

A. coming up with compelling strategy proposals of their own to debate against those put forward by top management.
B. overseeing the company's financial accounting and financial reporting practices and evaluating the caliber of senior executives' strategy-making/strategy-executing skills.
C. taking the lead in developing the company's business model and strategic vision.
D. taking the lead in formulating the company's strategic plan but then delegating the task of implementing and executing the strategic plan to the company's CEO and other senior executives.
E. approving the company's operating strategies, functional-area strategies, business strategy, and overall corporate strategy.

79. Which one of the following is NOT among the chief duties/responsibilities of a company's board of directors insofar as the strategy-making, strategy-executing process is concerned?

A. Hiring and firing senior-level executives and working with the company's chief strategic planning officer to improve the company's strategy when performance comes up short of expectations
B. Being inquiring critics and exercising strong oversight over the company's direction, strategy, and business approaches
C. Evaluating the caliber of senior executives' strategy-making/strategy-executing skills
D. Instituting a compensation plan for top executives that rewards them for actions and results that serve stakeholders' interests, most especially those of shareholders
E. Overseeing the company's financial accounting and financial reporting practices

80. Every corporation should have a strong independent board of directors that does all of the following EXCEPT:

A. is well informed about the company's performance and exercises its fiduciary duty to protect shareholders responsibly
B. guides management in choosing a strategic direction and makes independent judgments about the validity and wisdom of management's proposed strategic actions
C. evaluates the leadership skills of the CEO and other senior executives
D. has the courage to curb management actions deemed inappropriate or unduly risky
E. is responsible for leading the strategy-making, strategy-executing process

81. What are the five integrated tasks of the strategy-making, strategy-executing process, and what does each one involve?

82. Define and briefly explain what is meant by each of the following terms.

a) strategic vision
b) stretch objectives
c) strategic objective
d) balanced scorecard
e) strategic intent

83. A well-conceived strategic vision helps prepare a company for the future. True or false? Explain and justify your answer.

84. Explain why an organization needs a strategic vision. What purpose does a strategic vision serve?

85. What is the managerial value of a good strategic vision?

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86. What is the difference between a mission statement and a strategic vision?

87. Alonzo, the CEO of ActiveMinds, a business consulting service, decides to express the essence of his organization's vision with the help of a slogan. How does this help him?

88. Identify the key characteristics of a well-stated organizational objective.

89. What is meant by the term "stretch objectives"? Is it important that companies establish stretch objectives? Why or why not?

90. Why does an organization need both financial and strategic objectives?

91. Explain the difference between financial objectives and strategic objectives. Give examples of each.

92. Isabelle is in the process of setting financial and strategic objectives for her marketing company. She realizes she needs to add short-term and longer-term performance targets. Is it important to include short-term and long-term objectives at this stage? Which one is more important? Explain.

93. The achievement of financial objectives tends to be a lagging indicator of a company's performance, while the achievement of strategic objectives tends to be a leading indicator of a company's future financial performance. True or false? Support and explain your answer.

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94. What is the meaning of the term "balanced scorecard"? What are the merits of using a balanced scorecard in judging a company's performance?

95. Which is more important to a company's *future* financial performance—the achievement of strategic objectives *or* the achievement of financial objectives? Why?

96. What is the role and responsibility of a company's CEO in the strategy-making, strategy-executing process?

97. The task of crafting a company's strategy is typically a job for the company's whole management team, not just a small group of senior executives. True or false? Explain and support your answer.

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98. Explain why a company's strategy is really a collection of strategies.

99. What is the strategy-making hierarchy for a diversified company? How does it differ from the strategy-making hierarchy for a single business company?

100. Discuss the meaning of each of the following levels of strategy and indicate what level of management tends to take the lead responsibility for crafting the strategy at each of the four levels.
    a. corporate strategy
    b. business strategy
    c. functional-area strategy
    d. operating strategy

101. An organization's strategic plan consists of the actions which management plans to take in the near future. True or false? Explain and justify your answer.

102. Identify and explain three actions that top executives can take to help instill a spirit of high achievement into the corporate culture and mobilize organizational energy behind the drive for good strategy execution and operating excellence.

103. Identify and explain four actions that top executives can take that are key elements in directing organizational action and building capabilities behind the drive for good strategy execution to meet or beat performance targets.

104. What are the duties of a company's board of directors in the strategy-making, strategy-executing process?

105. List and briefly discuss at least three obligations of a company's board of directors in corporate governance and the strategy-making, strategy-executing process.

106. Ali is a business unit head of a soap manufacturing company. Explain the strategy he could use to strengthen his market position and build a competitive advantage over his rivals. Differentiate between his strategy and a corporate strategy.

Chapter 02 Test Bank Key

1. Which one of the following is NOT one of the five basic tasks of the strategy-making, strategy-executing process?

A. Developing a strategic vision of where the company needs to head and what its future business makeup will be
B. Setting objectives to convert the strategic vision into specific strategic and financial performance outcomes for the company to achieve
C. Crafting a strategy to achieve the objectives and get the company where it wants to go
D. Developing a profitable business model
E. Executing the chosen strategy efficiently and effectively

The process of crafting and executing a company's strategy is an ongoing, continuous process consisting of five interrelated stages: developing a strategic vision that charts the company's long-term direction; setting objectives for measuring the company's performance and tracking its progress in moving in the intended long-term direction; crafting a strategy for advancing the company along the path management has charted and achieving its performance objectives; executing the chosen strategy efficiently and effectively; and monitoring developments, evaluating performance, and initiating corrective adjustments in the company's vision and mission statement, objectives, strategy, or approach to strategy execution in light of actual experience, changing conditions, new ideas, and new opportunities.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
AACSB: Knowledge Application
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: Crafting and Executing a Strategy

2. A company's strategic plan:

A. maps out the company's history.
B. links the company's financial targets to control mechanisms.
C. outlines the competitive moves and approaches to be used in achieving the desired business results.
D. focuses on offering a more appealing product than rivals.
E. lists methods of making money in its chosen business.

A strategic plan maps out where a company is headed, establishes strategic and financial targets, and outlines the competitive moves and approaches to be used in achieving the desired business results.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: Strategy and the Strategic Management Process

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3. Which of the following is an integral part of the managerial process of crafting and executing strategy?

A. Developing a proven business model
B. Deciding how much of the company's resources to employ in the pursuit of sustainable competitive advantage
C. Setting objectives and using them as yardsticks for measuring the company's performance and progress
D. Communicating the company's values and code of conduct to all employees
E. Deciding on the company's strategic intent

The process of crafting and executing a company's strategy is an ongoing, continuous process consisting of five interrelated stages: developing a strategic vision that charts the company's long-term direction; setting objectives for measuring the company's performance and tracking its progress in moving in the intended long-term direction; crafting a strategy for advancing the company along the path management has charted and achieving its performance objectives; executing the chosen strategy efficiently and effectively; and monitoring developments, evaluating performance, and initiating corrective adjustments in the company's vision and mission statement, objectives, strategy, or approach to strategy execution in light of actual experience, changing conditions, new ideas, and new opportunities.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: Crafting and Executing a Strategy

4. Which of the following are integral parts of the managerial process of crafting and executing strategy?

A. Developing a strategic vision, setting objectives, and crafting a strategy
B. Developing a proven business model, deciding on the company's strategic intent, and crafting a strategy
C. Setting objectives, crafting a strategy, implementing and executing the chosen strategy, and deciding how much of the company's resources to employ in the pursuit of sustainable competitive advantage
D. Coming up with a statement of the company's mission and purpose, setting objectives, choosing what business approaches to employ, selecting a business model, and monitoring developments
E. Deciding on the company's strategic intent, setting financial objectives, crafting a strategy, and choosing what business approaches and operating practices to employ

The process of crafting and executing a company's strategy is an ongoing, continuous process consisting of five interrelated stages: developing a strategic vision that charts the company's long-term direction; setting objectives for measuring the company's performance and tracking its progress in moving in the intended long-term direction; crafting a strategy for advancing the company along the path management has charted and achieving its performance objectives; executing the chosen strategy efficiently and effectively; and monitoring developments, evaluating performance, and initiating corrective adjustments in the company's vision and mission statement, objectives, strategy, or approach to strategy execution in light of actual experience, changing conditions, new ideas, and new opportunities.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: Crafting and Executing a Strategy

Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test B

5. The strategy-making, strategy-executing process:

A. is usually delegated to members of a company's board of directors.
B. includes establishing a company's mission, developing a business model aimed at making the company an industry leader, and crafting a strategy to implement and execute the business model.
C. embraces the tasks of developing a strategic vision, setting objectives, crafting a strategy, implementing and executing the strategy, and then monitoring developments and initiating corrective adjustments in light of experience, changing conditions, and new opportunities.
D. is principally concerned with sizing up an organization's internal and external situation, so as to be prepared for the challenges of developing a sound business model.
E. is primarily the responsibility of top executives and the board of directors; very few managers below this level are involved in the process.

The process of crafting and executing a company's strategy is an ongoing, continuous process consisting of five interrelated stages: developing a strategic vision that charts the company's long-term direction; setting objectives for measuring the company's performance and tracking its progress in moving in the intended long-term direction; crafting a strategy for advancing the company along the path management has charted and achieving its performance objectives; executing the chosen strategy efficiently and effectively; and monitoring developments, evaluating performance, and initiating corrective adjustments in the company's vision and mission statement, objectives, strategy, or approach to strategy execution in light of actual experience, changing conditions, new ideas, and new opportunities.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: Crafting and Executing a Strategy

6. A company's strategic vision describes:

A. "who we are and what we do."
B. why the company does certain things in trying to please its customers.
C. management's storyline of how it intends to make a profit with the chosen strategy.
D. management's aspirations for the future and the company's strategic course and long-term direction.
E. what future actions the enterprise will likely undertake to outmaneuver rivals and achieve a sustainable competitive advantage.

A strategic vision delineates management's aspirations for the business, providing a panoramic view of "where we are going" and a convincing rationale for why this makes good business sense for the company. A strategic vision thus points an organization in a particular direction, charts a strategic path for it to follow, builds commitment to the future course of action, and molds organizational identity. A clearly articulated strategic vision communicates management's aspirations to stakeholders (customers, employees, stockholders, suppliers, etc.) and helps steer the energies of company personnel in a common direction.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

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7. The real purpose of the company's strategic vision:

A. is management's story line for how it plans to implement and execute a profitable business model.
B. sets forth what business the company is presently in and why it uses particular operating practices in trying to please customers.
C. serves as management's tool for giving the organization a sense of direction.
D. defines "who we are and what we do."
E. spells out a company's strategic intent, its strategic and financial objectives, and the business approaches and operating practices that will underpin its efforts to achieve sustainable competitive advantage.

The real purpose of a vision statement is to serve as a management tool for giving the organization a sense of direction. A strategic vision delineates management's aspirations for the business, providing a panoramic view of "where we are going" and a convincing rationale for why this makes good business sense for the company. A strategic vision thus points an organization in a particular direction, charts a strategic path for it to follow, builds commitment to the future course of action, and molds organizational identity. A clearly articulated strategic vision communicates management's aspirations to stakeholders (customers, employees, stockholders, suppliers, etc.) and helps steer the energies of company personnel in a common direction.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

8. A strategic vision constitutes management's view and conclusions about the company's:

A. long-term direction and what product-market-customer mix seems optimal.
B. business model and the kind of value that it is trying to deliver to customers.
C. justification of why the business will be a moneymaker.
D. past and present scope of work.
E. long-term plan for outcompeting rivals and achieving a competitive advantage.

Top management's views and conclusions about the company's long-term direction and what product-market-customer business mix seems optimal for the road ahead constitute a strategic vision for the company. A strategic vision delineates management's aspirations for the business, providing a panoramic view of "where we are going" and a convincing rationale for why this makes good business sense for the company.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
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9. The managerial task of developing a strategic vision for a company:

A. concerns deciding what approach the company should take to implement and execute its business model.
B. entails coming up with a fairly specific answer to "who are we, what do we do, and why are we here?"
C. is chiefly concerned with addressing what a company needs to do to successfully outcompete rivals in the marketplace.
D. involves deciding upon what strategic course a company should pursue in preparing for the future and why this directional path makes good business sense.
E. entails coming up with a concrete plan for how the company intends to make money.

The real purpose of a vision statement is to serve as a management tool for giving the organization a sense of direction. A strategic vision delineates management's aspirations for the business, providing a panoramic view of "where we are going" and a convincing rationale for why this makes good business sense for the company. A strategic vision thus points an organization in a particular direction, charts a strategic path for it to follow, builds commitment to the future course of action, and molds organizational identity. A clearly articulated strategic vision communicates management's aspirations to stakeholders (customers, employees, stockholders, suppliers, etc.) and helps steer the energies of company personnel in a common direction.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

10. Which of the following is NOT an accurate attribute of an organization's strategic vision?

A. Providing a panoramic view of "where we are going"
B. Outlining how the company intends to implement and execute its business model
C. Pointing an organization in a particular direction and charting a strategic path for it to follow
D. Helping mold an organization's character and identity
E. Describing the company's future product-market-customer focus

The real purpose of a vision statement is to serve as a management tool for giving the organization a sense of direction. A strategic vision delineates management's aspirations for the business, providing a panoramic view of "where we are going" and a convincing rationale for why this makes good business sense for the company. A strategic vision thus points an organization in a particular direction, charts a strategic path for it to follow, builds commitment to the future course of action, and molds organizational identity. A clearly articulated strategic vision communicates management's aspirations to stakeholders (customers, employees, stockholders, suppliers, etc.) and helps steer the energies of company personnel in a common direction.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
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Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
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11. Management's strategic vision for an organization:

A. charts a strategic course for the organization ("where we are going") and provides a rationale for why this directional path makes good sense.
B. describes in fairly specific terms the organization's strategic objectives, and strategy.
C. spells out how the company will become a big moneymaker and boost shareholder value.
D. addresses the critical issue of "why our business model needs to change and how we plan to change it."
E. spells out the organization's strategic intent and the actions and moves that will be undertaken to achieve it.

The real purpose of a vision statement is to serve as a management tool for giving the organization a sense of direction. A strategic vision delineates management's aspirations for the business, providing a panoramic view of "where we are going" and a convincing rationale for why this makes good business sense for the company. A strategic vision thus points an organization in a particular direction, charts a strategic path for it to follow, builds commitment to the future course of action, and molds organizational identity.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

12. Well-conceived visions are _____ and _____ to a particular organization and they avoid generic, feel-good statements that could apply to hundreds of organizations.

A. widespread; unique
B. recurring; customary
C. distinctive; specific
D. customary; familiar
E. universal; established

Well-conceived visions are *distinctive* and *specific* to a particular organization; they avoid generic, feel-good statements.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
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13. What a company's top executives are saying about where the company is headed long term and about what the company's future product-market-customer mix will be:

A. indicates what kind of business model the company is going to have in the future.
B. constitutes the strategic vision for the company.
C. signals what the firm's financial strategy will be.
D. serves to define the company's present scope of operation.
E. indicates what kind of products the company will offer in the future.

Top management's views and conclusions about the company's long-term direction and what product-market-customer business mix seems optimal for the road ahead constitute a strategic vision for the company. A strategic vision delineates management's aspirations for the business, providing a panoramic view of "where we are going" and a convincing rationale for why this makes good business sense for the company.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

14. One of the important benefits of a well-conceived and well-stated strategic vision is to:

A. clearly delineate how the company's business model will be implemented and executed.
B. clearly communicate management's aspirations for the company to stakeholders and help steer the energies of company personnel in a common direction.
C. set forth the firm budgetary objectives in clear and fairly precise terms.
D. help create a "balanced scorecard" approach to objective-setting and not stretch the company's resources too thin across different products, technologies, and geographic markets.
E. indicate what kind of sustainable competitive advantage the company will try to create in the course of becoming the industry leader.

The real purpose of a vision statement is to serve as a management tool for giving the organization a sense of direction. A strategic vision delineates management's aspirations for the business, providing a panoramic view of "where we are going" and a convincing rationale for why this makes good business sense for the company. A strategic vision thus points an organization in a particular direction, charts a strategic path for it to follow, builds commitment to the future course of action, and molds organizational identity. A clearly articulated strategic vision communicates management's aspirations to stakeholders (customers, employees, stockholders, suppliers, etc.) and helps steer the energies of company personnel in a common direction.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
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15. The defining characteristic of a well-conceived strategic vision is:

A. what it says about the company's future strategic course—"the direction we are headed and what our future product-market-customer focus will be."
B. that it not stretch the company's resources too thin across different products, technologies, and geographic markets.
C. clarity and specificity about "who we are, what we do, and why we are here."
D. that it be flexible and operate in the mainstream.
E. that it be within the realm of what the company can reasonably expect to achieve within four years.

Well-conceived visions are *distinctive* and *specific* to a particular organization; they avoid generic, feel-good statements. For a strategic vision to function as a valuable management tool, it must convey what top executives want the business to look like and provide managers at all organizational levels with a reference point in making strategic decisions and preparing the company for the future. It must say something definitive about how the company's leaders intend to position the company beyond where it is today.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

16. Which of the following questions is NOT pertinent to company managers in thinking strategically about what directional path should be taken by the company and about developing a strategic vision?

A. Is the outlook for the company promising if it continues with its present product offerings?
B. Are changing market and competitive conditions acting to enhance or weaken the company's prospects?
C. What business approaches and operating practices should we consider in trying to implement and execute our business model?
D. What strategic course offers attractive opportunity for growth and profitability?
E. What, if any, new customer groups and/or geographic markets should the company get in position to serve?

The real purpose of a vision statement is to serve as a management tool for giving the organization a sense of direction. A strategic vision delineates management's aspirations for the business, providing a panoramic view of "where we are going" and a convincing rationale for why this makes good business sense for the company. A strategic vision thus points an organization in a particular direction, charts a strategic path for it to follow, builds commitment to the future course of action, and molds organizational identity. A clearly articulated strategic vision communicates management's aspirations to stakeholders (customers, employees, stockholders, suppliers, etc.) and helps steer the energies of company personnel in a common direction.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

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17. Which of the following questions is NOT something that company managers should consider in choosing to pursue one strategic course or directional path versus another?

A. Are changing market and competitive conditions acting to enhance or weaken the company's business outlook?
B. Is the company stretching its resources too thinly by trying to compete in too many markets or segments, some of which are unprofitable?
C. Will our present business generate sufficient growth and profitability in the years ahead to please shareholders?
D. What market opportunities should the company pursue and which ones should not be pursued?
E. Do we have a better business model than key rivals?

A strategic vision delineates management's aspirations for the business, providing a panoramic view of "where we are going" and a convincing rationale for why this makes good business sense for the company. A strategic vision thus points an organization in a particular direction, charts a strategic path for it to follow, builds commitment to the future course of action, and molds organizational identity. A clearly articulated strategic vision communicates management's aspirations to stakeholders (customers, employees, stockholders, suppliers, etc.) and helps steer the energies of company personnel in a common direction.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

18. Which of the following are characteristics of an effectively worded strategic vision statement?

A. Balanced, responsible, and rational
B. Challenging, competitive, and "set in concrete"
C. Graphic, directional, and focused
D. Realistic, customer-focused, and market-driven
E. Achievable, profitable, and ethical

An effectively worded vision statement should be graphic—paint a clear picture of where the company is headed and the market position(s) the company is striving to stake out; focused on providing managers with guidance in making decisions and allocating resources; and forward-looking and directional—describe the strategic course that will help the company prepare for the future.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

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19. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of an effectively worded strategic vision statement?

A. Directional (is forward-looking, describes the strategic course that management has charted that will help the company prepare for the future)
B. Easy to communicate (is explainable in 5–10 minutes, and can be reduced to a memorable slogan)
C. Graphic (paints a picture of the kind of company management is trying to create and the market position(s) the company is striving to stake out)
D. Consensus-driven (commits the company to a "mainstream" directional path that almost all stakeholders will enthusiastically support)
E. Focused (provides guidance to managers in making decisions and allocating resources)

An effectively worded vision statement should be graphic—paint a clear picture of where the company is headed and the market position(s) the company is striving to stake out; focused on providing managers with guidance in making decisions and allocating resources; forward-looking and directional—describe the strategic course that will help the company prepare for the future; and memorable—it should be reducible to a few choice lines.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

20. Which of the following is NOT a common shortcoming when wording a company's vision statement? When the statement is somewhat:

A. vague or incomplete—short on specifics.
B. flexible—is adjusted according to changing circumstances.
C. bland or uninspiring—short on inspiration.
D. generic—could apply to almost any company (or at least several others in the same industry).
E. reliant on superlatives (best, most successful, recognized leader, global or worldwide leader, first choice of customers).

While wording a vision statement: don't be vague or incomplete—never skimp on specifics about where the company is headed or how the company intends to prepare for the future; don't state the vision in bland or uninspiring terms—the best vision statements have the power to motivate company personnel and inspire shareholder confidence about the company's future; don't be generic—a vision statement that could apply to companies in any of several industries (or to any of several companies in the same industry) is not specific enough to provide any guidance; don't rely on superlatives—visions that claim the company's strategic course is the "best" or "most successful" usually lack specifics about the path the company is taking to get there.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

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21. Which of the following ARE common shortcomings of company vision statements?

A. Too specific and too flexible
B. Unrealistic, unconventional, and un-businesslike
C. Too broad, vague or incomplete, bland/uninspiring, not distinctive, and too reliant on superlatives
D. Too graphic, too narrow, and too risky
E. Not customer-driven, out of step with emerging technological trends, and too ambitious

While wording a vision statement: don't be vague or incomplete—never skimp on specifics about where the company is headed or how the company intends to prepare for the future; don't state the vision in bland or uninspiring terms—the best vision statements have the power to motivate company personnel and inspire shareholder confidence about the company's future; don't be generic—a vision statement that could apply to companies in any of several industries (or to any of several companies in the same industry) is not specific enough to provide any guidance; don't rely on superlatives—visions that claim the company's strategic course is the "best" or "most successful" usually lack specifics about the path the company is taking to get there.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

22. Breaking down resistance to a new strategic vision typically requires that management, on an as needed basis:

A. institute a balanced scorecard approach to measuring company performance, with the "balance" including a mixture of both old and new performance measures.
B. inform company personnel about forthcoming changes in the company's strategy.
C. reiterate the company's need for the new direction, while addressing employee concerns head-on, calming fears, lifting spirits, and providing them with updates and progress reports as events unfold.
D. explain all updates and merits of the company's business model to align strategy with employee concerns.
E. raise wages and salaries to win the support of company personnel for the company's new direction.

It is particularly important for executives to provide a compelling rationale for a dramatically *new* strategic vision and company direction. When company personnel don't understand or accept the need for redirecting organizational efforts, they are prone to resist change. Hence, explaining the basis for the new direction, addressing employee concerns head-on, calming fears, lifting spirits, and providing updates and progress reports as events unfold all become part of the task in mobilizing support for the vision and winning commitment to needed actions.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
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23. An engaging and convincing strategic vision:

A. ought to put "who we were and what we are doing" in writing rather than orally so as to leave no room for company personnel to misinterpret what the strategic vision really is.
B. should be done in language that inspires and motivates company personnel to unite behind executive efforts to get the company moving in the intended direction.
C. tends to be more effective when top management avoids trying to capture the essence of the strategic vision in a catchy slogan.
D. is most efficiently and effectively done by posting the strategic vision prominently on the company's website and encouraging employees to read it.
E. should be explained after the company's strategic intent, strategy, and business model have been conveyed to company personnel.

It is particularly important for executives to provide a compelling rationale for a dramatically *new* strategic vision and company direction. When company personnel don't understand or accept the need for redirecting organizational efforts, they are prone to resist change. Hence, explaining the basis for the new direction, addressing employee concerns head-on, calming fears, lifting spirits, and providing updates and progress reports as events unfold all become part of the task in mobilizing support for the vision and winning commitment to needed actions.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

24. The managerial task of effectively conveying the essence of the strategic vision is made easier by:

A. having operating strategies that are easy for company personnel to understand and execute.
B. combining the strategic vision and the company's values statement into a single document.
C. adopting a catchy slogan and then using it repeatedly to illuminate the direction and purpose of "where we are headed and why."
D. waiting until the company realizes its mission and ensures the existing corporate culture is compatible with the new vision and direction.
E. distributing written statements that explain "where we are going and why."

The task of effectively conveying the vision to company personnel is assisted when management can capture the vision of where to head in a catchy or easily remembered slogan. A number of organizations have summed up their vision in a brief phrase.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

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25. Effectively communicating the strategic vision down the line to lower-level managers and employees has the value of:

A. inspiring company personnel to unite behind managerial efforts to get the company moving in the intended direction.
B. helping company personnel understand why "making a profit" is so important.
C. making it easier for top executives to set stretch objectives.
D. helping lower-level managers and employees better understand the company's business model.
E. helping the management in formulating a balanced scorecard.
It is particularly important for executives to provide a compelling rationale for a dramatically *new* strategic vision and company direction. When company personnel don't understand or accept the need for redirecting organizational efforts, they are prone to resist change.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

26. Perhaps the most important benefit of a vivid, engaging, and convincing strategic vision is:

A. helping gain managerial consensus on what resources must be developed to successfully achieve strategic objectives.
B. uniting company personnel behind managerial efforts to get the company moving in the intended direction.
C. helping justify the company's mission of making a profit.
D. helping company personnel understand the logic of the company's business model.
E. keeping company personnel well-informed.
It is particularly important for executives to provide a compelling rationale for a dramatically *new* strategic vision and company direction. When company personnel don't understand or accept the need for redirecting organizational efforts, they are prone to resist change.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

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27. A sound, well-communicated strategic vision matters, and the related payoffs occur in several respects, EXCEPT in connection with:

A. reducing the risks of rudderless decision-making.
B. helping the organization prepare for the future.
C. avoiding strategic inflection points and management's reaction in aligning decision choices.
D. helping to crystallize top management's own view about the firm's long-term direction.
E. providing a tool for winning the support of organizational members for internal changes that will help make the vision a reality.

For a strategic vision to function as a valuable management tool, it must convey what top executives want the business to look like and provide managers at all organizational levels with a reference point in making strategic decisions and preparing the company for the future. It must say something definitive about how the company's leaders intend to position the company beyond where it is today.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

28. Which of the following is NOT the result of a well-conceived and communicated strategic vision?

A. Senior executives solidify their own view of the firm's long-term direction.
B. The risk of rudderless decision-making is minimized.
C. Organizational members support the changes internally that will help make the vision a reality.
D. The vision assists the organization in preparing for the future.
E. Stockholders protest that the business is rudderless.

A clearly articulated strategic vision communicates management's aspirations to stakeholders (customers, employees, stockholders, suppliers, etc.) and helps steer the energies of company personnel in a common direction.

AACSB: Reflective Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

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29. A company's mission statement typically addresses which of the following questions?

A. Who are we and what do we do?
B. What objectives and level of performance do we want to achieve?
C. Where are we going and what should our strategy be?
D. What approach should we take to achieve sustainable competitive advantage?
E. What business model should we employ to achieve our objectives and our vision?

A mission statement describes the enterprise's *present business and purpose*—"who we are, what we do, and why we are here." It is purely descriptive.

AACSB: Reflective Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

30. The difference between the concept of a company mission statement and the concept of a strategic vision is that:

A. a mission concerns what to do to achieve short-term objectives, while a strategic vision concerns what to do to achieve long-term performance targets.
B. a mission statement focuses on the methods needed to make a profit, whereas a strategic vision concerns what business model to employ in striving to make a profit.
C. a mission statement deals with what to accomplish on behalf of shareholders, while a strategic vision concerns what to accomplish on behalf of customers.
D. a mission statement typically concerns a company's purpose and its present business scope, whereas the principal concern of a strategic vision is a company's aspirations for its future.
E. a mission statement deals with "where we are headed," whereas a strategic vision provides the critical answer to "how will we get there?"

The defining characteristic of a strategic vision is what it says about the company's *future strategic course*—"the direction we are headed and the shape of our business in the future." It is aspirational. In contrast, a mission statement describes the enterprise's *present business and purpose*—"who we are, what we do, and why we are here."

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

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31. The primary difference between a company's mission statement and the company's strategic vision is that:

A. a mission statement explains why it is essential to make a profit, whereas the strategic vision explains how the company will be a moneymaker.
B. a mission statement typically concerns a company's present business scope and purpose, whereas a strategic vision sets forth "where we are going and why."
C. a mission deals with how to please customers, whereas a strategic vision deals with how to please shareholders.
D. a mission statement deals with "where we are headed," whereas a strategic vision provides the critical answer to "how will we get there?"
E. a mission statement addresses "how we are trying to make a profit today," while a strategic vision concerns "how will we make money in the markets of tomorrow?"

The defining characteristic of a strategic vision is what it says about the company's *future strategic course*—"the direction we are headed and the shape of our business in the future." It is aspirational. In contrast, a mission statement describes the enterprise's *present business and purpose*—"who we are, what we do, and why we are here."

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

32. A company's mission statement does NOT:

A. identify the company's services and products.
B. specify the buyer's needs that the company seeks to satisfy.
C. identify the customer or market that the company intends to serve.
D. give the company its own identity.
E. explain "where we are headed."

A mission statement describes the enterprise's *present business and purpose*—"who we are, what we do, and why we are here." It is purely descriptive.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

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33. A company should not couch its mission in terms of making a profit because a profit is more correctly an:

A. obligation and a reason for what a company does.
B. objective and a result of what a company does.
C. outlay and a rationale for what a company does.
D. obligation and a responsibility for what a company does.
E. outflow and a right of what a company does.

Profit is more correctly an *objective* and a *result* of what a company does. Moreover, earning a profit is the obvious intent of every commercial enterprise.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

34. A company's values or core values concern:

A. whether and to what extent it intends to operate in an ethical and socially responsible manner.
B. how aggressively it will seek to maximize profits and enforce high ethical standards.
C. the beliefs and operating principles built into the company's "balanced scorecard" for measuring performance.
D. the beliefs, traits, and behavioral norms that company personnel are expected to display in conducting the company's business and pursuing its strategic vision and mission.
E. the beliefs, principles, and ethical standards that are incorporated into the company's strategic intent and business model.

By values (or core values, as they are often called), we mean certain designated beliefs, traits, and behavioral norms that management has determined should guide the pursuit of its vision and mission.

AACSB: Ethics
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

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35. A company's values relate to such things as:

A. how it will balance its pursuit of financial objectives against the pursuit of its strategic objectives.
B. how it will balance the pursuit of its business purpose/mission against the pursuit of its strategic vision.
C. fair treatment, integrity, ethical behavior, innovativeness, teamwork, top-notch quality, superior customer service, social responsibility, and community citizenship.
D. whether it will emphasize stock price appreciation or higher dividend payments to shareholders
E. whether it will put more emphasis on the achievement of short-term performance targets or long-range performance targets.

Values relate to such things as fair treatment, honor and integrity, ethical behavior, innovativeness, teamwork, a passion for top-notch quality or superior customer service, social responsibility, and community citizenship.

AACSB: Ethics
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

36. The managerial purpose of setting objectives includes all of the following EXCEPT:

A. converting the strategic vision into specific performance targets—results and outcomes the organization wants to achieve.
B. using the objectives as yardsticks for tracking the company's progress and performance.
C. challenging and helping stretch the organization to perform at its full potential and deliver the best possible results.
D. pushing company personnel to be more inventive and to exhibit more urgency in improving the company's financial performance and business position.
E. delineating management's aspirations for the business and providing a panoramic view of "where we are going."

The managerial purpose of setting objectives is to convert the vision and mission into specific performance targets. Managers focus organizational attention and align actions throughout the organization, serve as *yardsticks* for tracking a company's performance and progress, and motivate employees to expend greater effort and perform at a high level.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

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37. Well-stated objectives are:

A. quantifiable or measurable, and contain deadlines for achievement.
B. succinct and concise so as to identify the company's risk and return options.
C. broad and take into account views of all the stakeholders.
D. directly related to the dividend payout ratio for stockholder returns.
E. representative of customers' aspirations for company performance.

Well-stated objectives must be *specific, quantifiable* or *measurable,* and *challenging* and must contain a *deadline for achievement.*

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

38. What does a company specifically exhibit when it relentlessly pursues an ambitious strategic objective, concentrating the full force of its resources and competitive actions on achieving that objective?

A. Competitive edge.
B. Sustainable advantage.
C. Strategic intent.
D. Financial strength.
E. Strategic vision.

A company exhibits *strategic intent* when it relentlessly pursues an ambitious strategic objective, concentrating the full force of its resources and competitive actions on achieving that objective.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

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39. A company exhibits strategic intent when:

A. management crafts and adopts a strategic plan.
B. it relentlessly pursues an ambitious strategic objective, concentrating the full force of its resources and competitive actions on achieving that objective.
C. it aggressively pursues financial objectives, establishing a priority on meeting the performance metrics and instilling a sense of urgency throughout the company.
D. management establishes a comprehensive set of financial objectives that meet stockholder expectations.
E. it capitalizes on its primary competitive advantage and ensures resources are allocated to maintain its strategy.

A company exhibits *strategic intent* when it relentlessly pursues an ambitious strategic objective, concentrating the full force of its resources and competitive actions on achieving that objective.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

40. Managers can deliberately set challenging performance targets at levels high enough to promote outstanding company performance by establishing:

A. stretch objectives which challenge the organization to deliver stretch gains in performance.
B. mainstay objectives that although are easily attainable, and the company is obligated to meet, they are designed to spur motivation in the workforce.
C. financial objectives that drive standardization of cost-efficiency and unify stringent operating specifications.
D. a specifically detailed and integrated model of operating policies, practices, and procedures.
E. why the company does certain things in trying to please its customers.

One of the best ways to promote outstanding company performance is for managers to deliberately set performance targets high enough to *stretch an organization to perform at its full potential and deliver the best possible results.* Challenging company personnel to go all out and deliver "stretch" gains in performance pushes an enterprise to be more inventive, to exhibit more urgency in improving both its financial performance and its business position, and to be more intentional and focused in its actions.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

41. A company needs financial objectives to:

A. spur company personnel to help the company overtake key competitors on such important measures as net profit margins and return on investment.
B. communicate management's targets for financial performance and achieve strategic objectives.
C. indicate to employees whether the emphasis should be on earnings per share, return on investment, return on assets, or positive cash flow.
D. convince shareholders that top management is acting in their interests.
E. counterbalance its pursuit of strategic objectives and have a balanced scorecard for judging the caliber of its overall performance.

Financial objectives relate to the financial performance targets management has established for the organization to achieve.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

42. Which of the following is the best example of a well-stated financial objective?

A. Increase earnings per share by 15 percent annually.
B. Gradually boost market share from 10 percent to 15 percent over the next several years.
C. Achieve lower costs than any other industry competitor.
D. Boost revenues by a percentage margin greater than the industry average.
E. Maximize total company profits and return on investment.

Common financial objectives are: an *x* percent increase in annual revenues; annual increases in after-tax profits *of x* percent; annual increases in earnings per share of *x* percent; annual dividend increases of *x* percent; profit margins of *x* percent; an *x* percent return on capital employed (ROCE) or return on shareholders' equity (ROE) investment; increased shareholder value in the form of an upward-trending stock price; bond and credit ratings of *x*; internal cash flows of *x* dollars to fund new capital investment.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 3 Hard
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

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43. Which of the following is the best example of a well-stated strategic objective?

A. Increase revenues by more than the industry average.
B. Be among the top five companies in the industry in customer service.
C. Overtake key competitors on product performance or quality within three years.
D. Improve manufacturing performance by 5 percent within 12 months.
E. Obtain 150 new customers during the current fiscal year.

Common strategic objectives are: winning an *x* percent market share; achieving lower overall costs than rivals; overtaking key competitors on product performance, quality, or customer service; deriving *x* percent of revenues from the sale of new products introduced within the past five years; having broader or deeper technological capabilities than rivals; having a wider product line than rivals; having a better-known or more powerful brand name than rivals; having stronger national or global sales and distribution capabilities than rivals; consistently getting new or improved products to market ahead of rivals.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

44. Strategic objectives:

A. are more essential in achieving a company's strategic vision than are financial objectives.
B. relate to strengthening a company's overall market standing and competitive position.
C. are more difficult to achieve and harder to measure than financial objectives.
D. are generally less important than financial objectives.
E. help managers track an organization's true progress better than financial objectives.

Strategic objectives relate to target outcomes that indicate a company is strengthening its market standing, competitive position, and future business prospects.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test B

45. Adopting a set of "stretch" financial and "stretch" strategic objectives:

A. pushes the company to strive for lesser but adequate profitability levels, because the stretch objectives are considered unattainable.
B. is a widely held method for creating a "scorecard" for monitoring company performance.
C. helps convert the mission statement into meaningful company values.
D. challenges company personnel to execute the strategy with greater enthusiasm, proficiency, and understanding.
E. is an effective tool for pushing the company to perform at its full potential and deliver the best possible results.

Challenging company personnel to go all out and deliver "stretch" gains in performance pushes an enterprise to be more inventive, to exhibit more urgency in improving both its financial performance and its business position, and to be more intentional and focused in its actions.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

46. Which of the following is NOT an advantage of setting "stretch" objectives?

A. Helping to avoid mediocre results
B. Pushing company personnel to be more inventive and innovative
C. Helping clarify the company's strategic vision and strategic intent
D. Helping a company be more focused and intentional in its actions
E. Spurring exceptional performance and helping build a firewall against contentment with modest performance gains

One of the best ways to promote outstanding company performance is for managers to deliberately set performance targets high enough to *stretch an organization to perform at its full potential and deliver the best possible results.* Challenging company personnel to go all out and deliver "stretch" gains in performance pushes an enterprise to be more inventive, to exhibit more urgency in improving both its financial performance and its business position, and to be more intentional and focused in its actions.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test B

47. Strategic intent refers to a situation where a company:

A. commits to using a particular business model to make money.
B. decides to adopt a particular strategy.
C. relentlessly pursues an ambitious strategic objective.
D. commits to pursuing balanced-scorecard objectives.
E. changes its long-term direction and decides to pursue a newly adopted strategic vision.

A company exhibits strategic intent when it relentlessly pursues an ambitious strategic objective, concentrating the full force of its resources and competitive actions on achieving that objective.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Setting Objectives

48. A "balanced scorecard" for measuring company performance:

A. entails putting *equal* emphasis on financial and strategic objectives.
B. entails putting *balanced* emphasis on profit and non-profit objectives.
C. prevents the drive for achieving financial objectives from overwhelming the pursuit of strategic objectives.
D. prevents the drive for achieving strategic objectives from overwhelming the pursuit of financial objectives.
E. strikes a "balance" between financial and strategic objectives.

The Balanced Scorecard is a widely used method for combining the use of both strategic and financial objectives, tracking their achievement, and giving management a more complete and balanced view of how well an organization is performing.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Balanced Scorecard Approach

Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test B

49. A "balanced scorecard" that includes both strategic and financial performance targets is a conceptually strong approach for judging a company's overall performance because:

A. it assists managers in putting roughly equal emphasis on short-term and long-term performance targets.
B. it entails putting *equal* emphasis on good strategy execution and good business model execution.
C. a balanced-scorecard approach pushes managers to avoid setting objectives that reflect the results of past decisions and organizational activities.
D. financial performance measures are lagging indicators that reflect the results of past decisions and organizational activities, whereas strategic performance measures are leading indicators of a company's future financial performance and business prospects.
E. it forces managers to put *equal* emphasis on financial and strategic objectives.

A company's financial performance measures are really *lagging indicators* that reflect the results of past decisions and organizational activities. But a company's past or current financial performance is not a reliable indicator of its future prospects—poor financial performers often turn things around and do better, while good financial performers can fall upon hard times. The best and most reliable *leading indicators* of a company's future financial performance and business prospects are strategic outcomes that indicate whether the company's competitiveness and market position are stronger or weaker..

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Balanced Scorecard Approach

50. Perhaps the most reliable way for a company to improve its financial performance over time is to:

A. put 100 percent emphasis on the achievement of its short-term and long-term financial objectives.
B. recognize that the achievement of strategic objectives signals that the company is well positioned to sustain or improve its performance.
C. substitute financial intent for strategic intent and judiciously concentrate on the mission of making a profit.
D. not allocate any resources to the achievement of strategic objectives until it is very clear that the company can meet or beat its stretch financial performance targets.
E. avoid use of the balanced-scorecard philosophy since achievement of financial performance targets is obviously more important than the achievement of strategic performance targets.

The best and most reliable leading indicators of a company's future financial performance and business prospects are strategic outcomes that indicate whether the company's competitiveness and market position are stronger or weaker. The accomplishment of strategic objectives signals that the company is well positioned to sustain or improve its performance.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Financial Analysis Tools for Appraising Firm Performance

Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test B

51. A company that pursues and achieves strategic objectives:

A. is likely to weaken the achievement of its short-term and long-term financial objectives.
B. believes that the company's financial performance is not as important as it really is.
C. is generally not strongly focused on its true mission of making a profit.
D. is frequently in a better position to improve its future financial performance because of the increased competitiveness that flows from the achievement of strategic objectives.
E. is likely to be a weak financial performer because diverting resources to the pursuit of strategic objectives takes away from the achievement of financial performance targets.

A stronger market standing and greater competitive vitality— especially when accompanied by competitive advantage—is what enables a company to improve its financial performance.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

52. A company needs performance targets or objectives:

A. to help guide managers in deciding what strategic path to take in the event that a strategic inflection point is encountered.
B. because they give the company clear-cut strategic intent.
C. in order to unify the company's strategic vision and business model.
D. for its operations as a whole and also for each of its separate businesses, product lines, functional departments, and individual work units.
E. in order to prevent lower-level organizational units from establishing their own objectives.

Objective setting should not stop with top management's establishing of companywide performance targets. Company objectives need to be broken down into performance targets for each of the organization's separate businesses, product lines, functional departments, and individual work units. Employees within various functional areas and operating levels will be guided much better by specific objectives relating directly to their departmental activities than broad organizational-level goals.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test B

53. Company objectives:

A. are needed only in those areas directly related to a company's short-term and long-term profitability.
B. need to be broken down into performance targets for each of its organizational levels—for separate businesses, product lines, functional departments, and individual work units.
C. play the important role of establishing the direction in which it needs to be headed.
D. are important because they help guide managers in deciding what the company's strategic intent should be.
E. should be set in a manner that does not conflict with the performance targets of lower-level organizational units.

Company objectives need to be broken down into performance targets for each of the organization's separate businesses, product lines, functional departments, and individual work units. Employees within various functional areas and operating levels will be guided much better by specific objectives relating directly to their departmental activities than broad organizational-level goals.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

54. When trade-offs have to be made between achieving long-term and achieving short-term objectives:

A. long-term objectives should take precedence unless the short-term performance targets have unique importance.
B. long-term objectives should take precedence because of the need for future survival.
C. short-term objectives should take precedence because they focus attention on delivering performance improvement.
D. short-term objectives should take precedence unless the long-term performance targets are not achievable.
E. long-term objectives should never take precedence until the short-term objective is achieved.

When trade-offs have to be made between achieving long-term objectives and achieving short-term objectives, long-term objectives should take precedence (unless the achievement of one or more short-term performance targets has unique importance).

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test B

55. The task of stitching together a strategy:

A. entails addressing a series of *hows*: how to grow the business, how to please customers, how to outcompete rivals, how to respond to changing market conditions, and how to achieve strategic and financial objectives.
B. is primarily an exercise in deciding which of several freshly emerging market opportunities to pursue.
C. is mainly an exercise that should be dictated by what is comfortable to management from a risk perspective and what is acceptable in terms of capital requirements.
D. requires trying to copy the strategies of industry leaders as closely as possible.
E. is mainly an exercise in good planning.

The task of stitching a strategy together entails addressing a series of "hows": *how* to attract and please customers, *how* to compete against rivals, *how* to position the company in the marketplace, *how* to respond to changing market conditions, *how* to capitalize on attractive opportunities to grow the business, and *how* to achieve strategic and financial objectives.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Crafting and Executing a Strategy

56. Masterful strategies come from:

A. successful managerial efforts to develop a sound strategic vision.
B. doing a very thorough job of strategic planning.
C. involving as many company personnel as possible in the strategy-making process.
D. crafting a strategy that mimics the best parts of the strategies of the industry leaders.
E. doing things differently from competitors where it counts rather than running with the herd.

Masterful strategies come from doing things differently from competitors where it counts—out-innovating them, being more efficient, being more imaginative, adapting faster—rather than running with the herd. Good strategy making is therefore inseparable from good business entrepreneurship. One cannot exist without the other.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Crafting and Executing a Strategy

Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test B

57. The faster a company's business environment is changing only makes it imperative for strategy makers to:

A. pay attention to early warnings of future change and be willing to experiment to establish a market position in the future.
B. stay abreast of the changes by developing a comprehensive knowledge management system to monitor the environment.
C. establish controls to ensure the impact of any changes is monitored appropriately and ensure the internal environment is maintained.
D. align their decision-making with organizational unit objectives.
E. develop financial objectives that reflect the implications of change and that meet the internal environment's functional focus.

The faster a company's business environment is changing, the more critical it becomes for its managers to be good entrepreneurs in diagnosing the direction and force of the changes under way and in responding with timely adjustments in strategy. Strategy makers have to pay attention to early warnings of future change and be willing to experiment with dare-to-be-different ways to establish a market position in that future.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: The Roles of Firm Effects and Industry Effects on Firm Performance and Competitive Advantage

58. Strategy-making is:

A. primarily the responsibility of key executives rather than a task for a company's entire management team.
B. more of a collaborative group effort that involves all managers and sometimes key employees, as opposed to being the function and responsibility of a few high-level executives.
C. first and foremost the function and responsibility of a company's strategic planning staff.
D. first and foremost the function and responsibility of a company's board of directors.
E. first and foremost the function of a company's chief executive officer, who formulates strategic initiatives and submits them to the board of directors for approval.

As a general rule, strategy making must start at the top of the organization and then proceed downward from the corporate level to the business level and then from the business level to the associated functional and operating levels.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: The Strategic Role of Managers in Strategy Formulation and Implementation

Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test B

59. Which of the following is NOT an accurate description of the task of crafting a company's strategy?

A. In most companies, crafting strategy is a team effort, involving managers and often key employees at many organization levels.
B. Ultimate responsibility for leading the strategy-making task rests with the chief executive officer.
C. The task of crafting strategy is best done by a company's chief strategic planning officer, who should report directly to the company's CEO and board of directors.
D. It is the responsibility and duty of a company's board of directors to ensure that new strategy proposals can be defended as superior to alternatives and, ultimately, to approve or disapprove of the strategy formulated and proposed by the company's management.
E. In most of today's companies, every company manager has a strategy-making role, ranging from major to minor, for his or her area of responsibility.

Although senior managers have the lead responsibility for crafting and executing a company's strategy, it is the duty of a company's board of directors to exercise strong oversight and see that management performs the various tasks involved in each of the five stages of the strategy-making, strategy-executing process in a manner that best serves the interests of shareholders and other stakeholders.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: The Strategic Role of Managers in Strategy Formulation and Implementation

60. Managerial jobs with strategy-making responsibility:

A. extend throughout the managerial ranks and exist in every part of a company—business units, operating divisions, functional departments, manufacturing plants, and sales districts.
B. are primarily located in the strategic planning departments of large corporations.
C. are relatively rare because most strategy-making is done by the members of a company's board of directors.
D. seldom exist within a functional department (e.g., marketing and sales) or in an operating unit (a plant or a district office) because these levels of the organization structure are well below the level where strategic decisions are typically made.
E. are found only at the vice-president level and above in most companies.

In most of today's companies, crafting and executing strategy is a collaborative team effort in which every company manager plays a strategy-making role—ranging from minor to major—for the area he or she heads.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: The Strategic Role of Managers in Strategy Formulation and Implementation

Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test B

61. Which of the following most accurately describes the task of crafting a company's strategy?

A. In most companies, strategy-making is the exclusive province of top management—owner-entrepreneurs, CEOs, and other very senior executives.
B. The more a company's operations cut across different products, industries, and geographical areas, the more that headquarters executives have little option but to delegate considerable strategy-making authority to down-the-line managers in charge of particular subsidiaries, product lines, geographic sales offices, and plants.
C. A company's board of directors generally takes the lead role in crafting a company's strategy.
D. In most of today's companies, the lead strategy-making role is being assumed by an elite group of corporate entrepreneurs.
E. Masterful strategies are nearly always the product of brilliant corporate entrepreneurs.

Strategy making is by no means solely a top management function, the exclusive province of owner-entrepreneurs, CEOs, high-ranking executives, and board members. The more a company's operations cut across different products, industries, and geographic areas, the more that headquarters executives have little option but to delegate considerable strategy-making authority to down-the-line managers in charge of particular subsidiaries, divisions, product lines, geographic sales offices, distribution centers, and plants.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Crafting and Executing a Strategy

62. A company's overall strategy:

A. determines whether its strategic intent is proactive or reactive.
B. is subject to being changed much less frequently than either its objectives or its mission statement and thus serves as the base of its strategy-making pyramid.
C. should be based on a flexible strategic vision and strategic intent.
D. is customarily reviewed and approved level-by-level by the company board of directors.
E. is really a collection of strategic initiatives and actions devised by managers and key employees up and down the whole organizational hierarchy.

In diversified companies like GE, where multiple and sometimes strikingly different businesses have to be managed, crafting a full-fledged strategy involves four distinct types of strategic actions and initiatives. Each of these involves different facets of the company's overall strategy and calls for the participation of different types of managers.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: The Strategic Role of Managers in Strategy Formulation and Implementation

Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test B

63. In a diversified company, the strategy-making hierarchy consists of:

A. corporate strategy and a group of business strategies (one for each line of business the corporation has diversified into).
B. corporate or managerial strategy, a set of business strategies, and divisional strategies within each business.
C. business strategies, functional strategies, and operating strategies.
D. corporate strategy, business strategies, functional strategies, and operating strategies.
E. its diversification strategy, its line of business strategies, and its operating strategies.

In diversified companies like GE, where multiple and sometimes strikingly different businesses have to be managed, crafting a full-fledged strategy involves four distinct types of strategic actions and initiatives. Each of these involves different facets of the company's overall strategy—corporate, business, functional-area, and operating—and calls for the participation of different types of managers

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Strategy and the Strategic Management Process

64. Corporate strategy for a diversified or multibusiness enterprise:

A. is orchestrated by mid-level managers and focuses on how to create a competitive advantage in each specific line-of-business the total enterprise is in.
B. concerns how best to allocate resources across the departments of each line of business the company is in.
C. is orchestrated by senior corporate executives and centers around the kinds of initiatives the company uses to establish business positions in different industries
D. deals chiefly with what the strategic intent of each of its business units should be.
E. involves how functional strategies should be aligned with business strategies in each of the various lines of business the company is in.

In diversified companies, corporate strategy is orchestrated by the CEO and other senior executives and establishes an overall strategy for managing a set of businesses in a diversified, multibusiness company. Corporate strategy concerns how to improve the combined performance of the set of businesses the company has diversified into by capturing cross-business synergies and turning them into competitive advantage.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Define Corporate Diversification, Evaluate the Types of Corporate Diversification, and Understand How it can Enhance Shareholder Value

Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test B

65. Business strategy concerns:

A. how to gain and sustain a competitive advantage for a single line of business.
B. defining what set of businesses to be in and why.
C. selecting a business model to use in pursuing business objectives.
D. selecting a set of stretch financial and strategic objectives for a particular line of business.
E. choosing the most appropriate strategic intent for a specific line of business.
Business strategy is concerned with strengthening the market position, building competitive advantage, and improving the performance of a single line of business unit.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Define Competitive Advantage

66. Business strategy, as distinct from corporate strategy, is chiefly concerned with:

A. deciding what new businesses to enter, which existing businesses to get out of, and which existing business to remain in.
B. deciding how to build competitive advantage and improve performance in a particular line of business.
C. making sure the strategic intent of a particular business is in step with the company's overall strategic intent and strategy.
D. coordinating the competitive approaches of a company's different business units.
E. what business model to employ in each of the company's different businesses.
Business strategy is concerned with strengthening the market position, building competitive advantage, and improving the performance of a single line of business unit.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Strategic Approaches to Winning a Sustainable Competitive Advantage

67. Functional-area strategies:

A. concern the actions, approaches, and practices to be employed in managing particular functions within a business.
B. specify what actions a company should take to resolve specific strategic issues and problems.
C. are normally crafted by operating-level managers.
D. are concerned with how to unify the firm's several different operating strategies into a cohesive whole.
E. are normally crafted by the company's CEO and other senior executives.
Functional-area strategies concern the approaches employed in managing particular functions within a business—like research and development (R&D), production, procurement of inputs, sales and marketing, distribution, customer service, and finance.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

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Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Types of Functional Strategies

68. The primary role of a functional strategy is to:

A. unify the company's various operating-level strategies.
B. specify how to build and strengthen the skills, expertise, and competencies needed to execute operating-level strategies successfully.
C. support and add power to the corporate-level strategy.
D. create compatible degrees of strategic intent among a company's different business functions.
E. determine how to support particular activities in ways that support the overall business strategy and competitive approach.

Functional-area strategies concern the approaches employed in managing particular functions within a business—like research and development (R&D), production, procurement of inputs, sales and marketing, distribution, customer service, and finance.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Types of Functional Strategies

69. The primary operating strategies are concerned with:

A. what the firm's operating departments are doing and plan to do to unify the company's functional and business strategies.
B. the specific plans for building competitive advantage in each major department and operating unit.
C. how to manage initiatives of strategic significance within each functional area, and adding detail and completeness in ways that support functional strategies and the overall business strategy.
D. how best to carry out the company's corporate strategy.
E. how best to implement and execute the company's different business-level strategies.

Operating strategies concern the relatively narrow approaches for managing key operating units (e.g., plants, distribution centers, purchasing centers) and specific operating activities with strategic significance (e.g., quality control, materials purchasing, brand management, Internet sales).

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Types of Functional Strategies

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70. In a single-business company, the strategy-making hierarchy consists of:

A. business strategy, divisional strategies, and departmental strategies.
B. business strategy, functional strategies, and operating strategies.
C. business strategy and operating strategy.
D. managerial strategy, business strategy, and divisional strategies.
E. corporate strategy, divisional strategies, and departmental strategies.

In single-business companies, the uppermost level of the strategy-making hierarchy is the business strategy, so a single-business company has three levels of strategy: business strategy, functional-area strategies, and operating strategies.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Strategy and the Strategic Management Process

71. A company's strategic plan:

A. details key objectives and the strategy for achieving them.
B. lays out its future direction and business purpose, performance targets and strategy.
C. identifies the company's strategy and management's specific, detailed plans for implementation.
D. consists of a company's strategic vision, strategic objectives, strategic intent, and strategy.
E. summarizes the company's strategic vision, a strategy, and a business model.

A strategic plan maps out where a company is headed, establishes strategic and financial targets, and outlines the competitive moves and approaches to be used in achieving the desired business results.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Strategy and the Strategic Management Process

Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test B

72. Which of the following is NOT among the principal managerial tasks associated with managing the strategy execution process?

A. Ensuring that policies and procedures facilitate rather than impede effective execution
B. Creating a company culture and work climate conducive to successful strategy implementation and execution
C. Surveying employees' opinions on how costs can be reduced and how employee morale and job satisfaction can be improved
D. Exerting the internal leadership needed to drive implementation forward and keep improving on how the strategy is being executed
E. Motivating people and tying rewards and incentives directly to the achievement of performance objectives and good strategy execution

Managing the strategy execution process includes the following principal aspects: creating a strategy-supporting structure; staffing the organization to obtain needed skills and expertise; developing and strengthening strategy-supporting resources and capabilities; allocating ample resources to the activities critical to strategic success; ensuring that policies and procedures facilitate effective strategy execution; organizing the work effort along the lines of best practice; installing information and operating systems that enable company personnel to perform essential activities; motivating people and tying rewards directly to the achievement of performance objectives; creating a company culture conducive to successful strategy execution; and exerting the internal leadership needed to propel implementation forward.

AACSB: Reflective Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-04 What a company must do to achieve operating excellence and to execute its strategy proficiently.
Topic: How Managers Execute Strategy Successfully

73. Which of the following principal aspects should be included in managing the strategy execution process?

A. Describing the strategic course that will help the company prepare for the future
B. Organizing the company along the lines of best practice
C. Surveying employees on how they think costs can be reduced and how employee morale and job satisfaction can be improved
D. Exerting the external leadership needed to drive stabilization
E. Tying rewards and incentives directly to profit

In most situations, managing the strategy execution process includes the following principal aspects: creating a strategy-supporting structure; staffing the organization to obtain needed skills and expertise; developing and strengthening strategy-supporting resources and capabilities; allocating ample resources to the activities critical to strategic success; ensuring that policies and procedures facilitate effective strategy execution; organizing the work effort along the lines of best practice; installing information and operating systems that enable company personnel to perform essential activities; motivating people and tying rewards directly to the achievement of performance objectives; creating a company culture conducive to successful strategy execution; and exerting the internal leadership needed to propel implementation forward.

AACSB: Reflective Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-04 What a company must do to achieve operating excellence and to execute its strategy proficiently.
Topic: How Managers Execute Strategy Successfully

Crafting and Executing Strategy Concepts and Readings The Quest for Competitive Advantage 20th edition Thompson Test B

74. Management is obligated to monitor new external developments, evaluate the company's progress, and make corrective adjustments in order to:

A. determine whether the company has a balanced scorecard for judging its performance.
B. stay on track in achieving the company's mission and strategic vision.
C. keep the company's board of directors well-informed about the company's future outlook.
D. determine whether the company's business model is well-matched to changing market and competitive circumstances.
E. decide whether to continue or change the company's strategic vision, objectives, strategy and/or strategy execution methods.

The fifth component of the strategy management process—monitoring new external developments, evaluating the company's progress, and making corrective adjustments—is the trigger point for deciding whether to continue or change the company's vision and mission, objectives, strategy, and/or strategy execution methods.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-04 What a company must do to achieve operating excellence and to execute its strategy proficiently.
Topic: How Managers Execute Strategy Successfully

75. The leadership challenges that top executives face in making corrective adjustments when things are not going well include:

A. knowing when to replace poorly performing subordinates and when to do a better job of coaching them to do the right things.
B. being able to discern whether to promote better achievement of strategic performance targets or whether to promote better achievement of financial performance targets.
C. deciding when adjustments are needed and what adjustments to make.
D. having the analytic skills to separate the problems due to a bad strategy from the problems due to bad strategy execution.
E. deciding whether the company would be better off making adjustments that curtail the achievement of strategic objectives or that curtail the achievement of financial objectives.

Top-notch strategy execution entails vigilantly searching for ways to improve and then making corrective adjustments whenever and wherever it is useful to do so.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 3 Hard
Learning Objective: 02-04 What a company must do to achieve operating excellence and to execute its strategy proficiently.
Topic: How Managers Execute Strategy Successfully

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76. The task of top executives when the company faces disruptive changes in its environment is to not only raise questions about the appropriateness of its direction and strategy but also to:

A. know when to continue with the present corporate culture and when to shift to a different and better corporate culture.
B. ferret out the causes and decide when adjustments are needed and what adjustments are needed for improved performance and operating excellence.
C. figure out whether to arrive at decisions quickly or slowly in choosing among the various alternative adjustments.
D. decide whether to try to fix the problems of poor strategy execution or simply shift to a strategy that is easier to execute correctly.
E. decide how to identify the problems that need fixing.

Top-notch strategy execution entails vigilantly searching for ways to improve and then making corrective adjustments whenever and wherever it is useful to do so.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 3 Hard
Learning Objective: 02-04 What a company must do to achieve operating excellence and to execute its strategy proficiently.
Topic: How Managers Execute Strategy Successfully

77. In the strategy-making, strategy-executing process, effective corporate governance requires a company's board of directors to:

A. play the lead role in forming the company's strategy and then directly supervising the efforts and actions of senior executives in implementing and executing the strategy.
B. provide guidance and counsel to the CEO in carrying out his/her duties as chief strategist and chief strategy implementer.
C. oversee the company's strategic direction, evaluate the caliber of senior executives' skills, handle executive compensation, and oversee financial reporting practices.
D. work closely with the CEO, senior executives, and the strategic planning staff to develop a strategic plan for the company and then oversee how well the CEO and senior executives carry out the board's directives in implementing and executing the strategic plan.
E. review and approve the company's business model and also review and approve the proposals and recommendations of the CEO as to how to execute the business model.

Effective corporate governance requires the board of directors to oversee the company's strategic direction, evaluate its senior executives, handle executive compensation, and oversee financial reporting practices.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-05 The role and responsibility of a company's board of directors in overseeing the strategic management process.
Topic: The Role of the Board of Directors in Corporate Governance

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78. The key duties of a company's board of directors in the strategy-making, strategy-executing process include:

A. coming up with compelling strategy proposals of their own to debate against those put forward by top management.
B. overseeing the company's financial accounting and financial reporting practices and evaluating the caliber of senior executives' strategy-making/strategy-executing skills.
C. taking the lead in developing the company's business model and strategic vision.
D. taking the lead in formulating the company's strategic plan but then delegating the task of implementing and executing the strategic plan to the company's CEO and other senior executives.
E. approving the company's operating strategies, functional-area strategies, business strategy, and overall corporate strategy.

A company's board of directors has four important obligations to fulfill: oversee the company's financial accounting and financial reporting practices; critically appraise the company's direction, strategy, and business approaches; evaluate the caliber of senior executives' strategic leadership skills; institute a compensation plan for top executives that rewards them for actions and results that serve shareholder interests.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-05 The role and responsibility of a company's board of directors in overseeing the strategic management process.
Topic: The Role of the Board of Directors in Corporate Governance

79. Which one of the following is NOT among the chief duties/responsibilities of a company's board of directors insofar as the strategy-making, strategy-executing process is concerned?

A. Hiring and firing senior-level executives and working with the company's chief strategic planning officer to improve the company's strategy when performance comes up short of expectations
B. Being inquiring critics and exercising strong oversight over the company's direction, strategy, and business approaches
C. Evaluating the caliber of senior executives' strategy-making/strategy-executing skills
D. Instituting a compensation plan for top executives that rewards them for actions and results that serve stakeholders' interests, most especially those of shareholders
E. Overseeing the company's financial accounting and financial reporting practices

A company's board of directors has four important obligations to fulfill: oversee the company's financial accounting and financial reporting practices; critically appraise the company's direction, strategy, and business approaches; evaluate the caliber of senior executives' strategic leadership skills; institute a compensation plan for top executives that rewards them for actions and results that serve shareholder interests.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-05 The role and responsibility of a company's board of directors in overseeing the strategic management process.
Topic: The Role of the Board of Directors in Corporate Governance

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80. Every corporation should have a strong independent board of directors that does all of the following EXCEPT:

A. is well informed about the company's performance and exercises its fiduciary duty to protect shareholders responsibly
B. guides management in choosing a strategic direction and makes independent judgments about the validity and wisdom of management's proposed strategic actions
C. evaluates the leadership skills of the CEO and other senior executives
D. has the courage to curb management actions deemed inappropriate or unduly risky
E. is responsible for leading the strategy-making, strategy-executing process

Every corporation should have a strong independent board of directors that (1) is well informed about the company's performance, (2) guides and judges the CEO and other top executives, (3) has the courage to curb management actions the board believes are inappropriate or unduly risky, (4) certifies to shareholders that the CEO is doing what the board expects, (5) provides insight and advice to management, and (6) is intensely involved in debating the pros and cons of key decisions and actions.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-05 The role and responsibility of a company's board of directors in overseeing the strategic management process.
Topic: The Role of the Board of Directors in Corporate Governance

81. What are the five integrated tasks of the strategy-making, strategy-executing process, and what does each one involve?

The process of crafting and executing a company's strategy is an ongoing, continuous process consisting of five interrelated stages:
1. Developing a strategic vision that charts the company's long-term direction, a mission statement that describes the company's purpose, and a set of core values to guide the pursuit of the vision and mission.
2. Setting objectives for measuring the company's performance and tracking its progress in moving in the intended long-term direction.
3. Crafting a strategy for advancing the company along the path management has charted and achieving its performance objectives.
4. Executing the chosen strategy efficiently and effectively.
5. Monitoring developments, evaluating performance, and initiating corrective adjustments in the company's vision and mission statement, objectives, strategy, or approach to strategy execution in light of actual experience, changing conditions, new ideas, and new opportunities.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
AACSB: Knowledge Application
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: Crafting and Executing a Strategy

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82. Define and briefly explain what is meant by each of the following terms.

a) strategic vision
b) stretch objectives
c) strategic objective
d) balanced scorecard
e) strategic intent

Strategic vision: A strategic vision delineates management's aspirations for the business, providing a panoramic view of "where we are going" and a convincing rationale for why this makes good business sense for the company.
Stretch objectives: Stretch objectives set performance targets high enough to stretch an organization to perform at its full potential and deliver the best possible results.
Strategic objective: Strategic objectives are goals concerning a company's marketing standing and competitive position.
Balanced Scorecard: It is a widely used method for combining the use of both strategic and financial objectives, tracking their achievement, and giving management a more complete and balanced view of how well an organization is performing.
Strategic intent: A company exhibits strategic intent when it relentlessly pursues an ambitious strategic objective, concentrating the full force of its resources and competitive actions on achieving that objective.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
AACSB: Knowledge Application
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Balanced Scorecard Approach
Topic: Setting Objectives

83. A well-conceived strategic vision helps prepare a company for the future. True or false? Explain and justify your answer.

A well-conceived strategic vision is distinctive and specific to a particular organization; it avoids generic, feel-good statements like "We will become a global leader and the first choice of customers in every market we serve." The real purpose of a vision statement is to serve as a management tool for giving the organization a sense of direction. A well-thought-out, forcefully communicated strategic vision pays off in several respects: (1) It crystallizes senior executives' own views about the firm's long-term direction; (2) it reduces the risk of rudderless decision making; (3) it is a tool for winning the support of organization members to help make the vision a reality; (4) it provides a beacon for lower-level managers in setting departmental objectives and crafting departmental strategies that are in sync with the company's overall strategy; and (5) it helps an organization prepare for the future. When top executives are able to demonstrate significant progress in achieving these five benefits, the first step in organizational direction setting has been successfully completed.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
AACSB: Reflective Thinking
Blooms: Analyze
Difficulty: 3 Hard
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

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84. Explain why an organization needs a strategic vision. What purpose does a strategic vision serve?

Top management's views and conclusions about the company's long-term direction and what product-market-customer business mix seems optimal for the road ahead constitute a strategic vision for the company. A strategic vision delineates management's aspirations for the business, providing a panoramic view of "where we are going" and a convincing rationale for why this makes good business sense for the company. A strategic vision thus points an organization in a particular direction, charts a strategic path for it to follow, builds commitment to the future course of action, and molds organizational identity. A clearly articulated strategic vision communicates management's aspirations to stakeholders (customers, employees, stockholders, suppliers, etc.) and helps steer the energies of company personnel in a common direction.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

85. What is the managerial value of a good strategic vision?

For a strategic vision to function as a valuable management tool, it must convey what top executives want the business to look like and provide managers at all organizational levels with a reference point in making strategic decisions and preparing the company for the future. It must say something definitive about how the company's leaders intend to position the company beyond where it is today

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

86. What is the difference between a mission statement and a strategic vision?

The defining characteristic of a strategic vision is what it says about the company's *future strategic course*—"the direction we are headed and the shape of our business in the future." It is aspirational. In contrast, a mission statement describes the enterprise's *present business and purpose*—"who we are, what we do, and why we are here." It is purely descriptive. Ideally, a company mission statement (1) identifies the company's products and/or services, (2) specifies the buyer needs that the company seeks to satisfy and the customer groups or markets that it serves, and (3) gives the company its own identity.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
AACSB: Knowledge Application
Blooms: Analyze
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

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87. Alonzo, the CEO of ActiveMinds, a business consulting service, decides to express the essence of his organization's vision with the help of a slogan. How does this help him?

The task of effectively conveying the vision to company personnel is assisted when management can capture the vision of where to head in a catchy or easily remembered slogan. A number of organizations have summed up their vision in a brief phrase. Creating a short slogan to illuminate an organization's direction and purpose and using it repeatedly as a reminder of "where we are headed and why" helps rally organization members to hurdle whatever obstacles lie in the company's path and maintain their focus.

AACSB: Communication
AACSB: Knowledge Application
Blooms: Apply
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-01 Why it is critical for company managers to have a clear strategic vision of where a company needs to head and why.
Topic: The Roles of Vision, Mission, and Values in the Strategic Management Process

88. Identify the key characteristics of a well-stated organizational objective.

Well-stated objectives must be *specific, quantifiable* or *measurable,* and *challenging* and must contain a *deadline for achievement.* Concrete, measurable objectives are managerially valuable for three reasons: (1) They focus organizational attention and align actions throughout the organization, (2) they serve as *yardsticks* for tracking a company's performance and progress, and (3) they motivate employees to expend greater effort and perform at a high level.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

89. What is meant by the term "stretch objectives"? Is it important that companies establish stretch objectives? Why or why not?

Stretch objectives set performance targets high enough to *stretch* an organization to perform at its full potential and deliver the best possible results. The experiences of countless companies teach that one of the best ways to promote outstanding company performance is for managers to deliberately set performance targets high enough to *stretch an organization to perform at its full potential and deliver the best possible results.* Challenging company personnel to go all out and deliver "stretch" gains in performance pushes an enterprise to be more inventive, to exhibit more urgency in improving both its financial performance and its business position, and to be more intentional and focused in its actions. Stretch objectives spur exceptional performance and help build a firewall against contentment with modest gains in organizational performance.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

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90. Why does an organization need both financial and strategic objectives?

Financial objectives communicate management's goals for financial performance. Strategic objectives are goals concerning a company's marketing standing and competitive position. The importance of setting and attaining financial objectives is obvious. Without adequate profitability and financial strength, a company's long-term health and ultimate survival are jeopardized. Furthermore, subpar earnings and a weak balance sheet alarm shareholders and creditors and put the jobs of senior executives at risk. However, good financial performance, by itself, is not enough. Of equal or greater importance is a company's strategic performance—outcomes that indicate whether a company's market position and competitiveness are deteriorating, holding steady, or improving. *A stronger market standing and greater competitive vitality— especially when accompanied by competitive advantage—is what enables a company to improve its financial performance.*

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
AACSB: Knowledge Application
Blooms: Analyze
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

91. Explain the difference between financial objectives and strategic objectives. Give examples of each.

Financial objectives relate to the financial performance targets management has established for the organization to achieve. For example, an *x* percent increase in annual revenues; annual increases in after-tax profits *of x* percent; annual increases in earnings per share of *x* percent. Strategic objectives relate to target outcomes that indicate a company is strengthening its market standing, competitive position, and future business prospects. For example, winning an *x* percent market share; achieving lower overall costs than rivals; overtaking key competitors on product performance, quality, or customer service.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Analyze
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

92. Isabelle is in the process of setting financial and strategic objectives for her marketing company. She realizes she needs to add short-term and longer-term performance targets. Is it important to include short-term and long-term objectives at this stage? Which one is more important? Explain.

A company's set of financial and strategic objectives should include both near-term and longer term performance targets. Short-term (quarterly or annual) objectives focus attention on delivering performance improvements in the current period and satisfy shareholder expectations for near-term progress. Longer-term targets (three to five years off) force managers to consider what to do *now* to put the company in position to perform better later. Long-term objectives are critical for achieving optimal long-term performance and stand as a barrier to a nearsighted management philosophy and an undue focus on short-term results. When trade-offs have to be made between achieving long-term objectives and achieving short-term objectives, long-term objectives should take precedence (unless the achievement of one or more short-term performance targets has unique importance).

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Apply
Difficulty: 2 Medium

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Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

93. The achievement of financial objectives tends to be a lagging indicator of a company's performance, while the achievement of strategic objectives tends to be a leading indicator of a company's future financial performance. True or false? Support and explain your answer.

True. Acompany's financial performance measures are really *lagging indicators* that reflect the results of past decisions and organizational activities. But a company's past or current financial performance is not a reliable indicator of its future prospects—poor financial performers often turn things around and do better, while good financial performers can fall upon hard times. The best and most reliable *leading indicators* of a company's future financial performance and business prospects are strategic outcomes that indicate whether the company's competitiveness and market position are stronger or weaker. The accomplishment of strategic objectives signals that the company is well positioned to sustain or improve its performance.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

94. What is the meaning of the term "balanced scorecard"? What are the merits of using a balanced scorecard in judging a company's performance?

The balanced scorecard is a widely used method for combining the use of both strategic and financial objectives, tracking their achievement, and giving management a more complete and balanced view of how well an organization is performing. It provides a company's employees with clear guidelines about how their jobs are linked to the overall objectives of the organization, so they can contribute most productively and collaboratively to the achievement of these goals.

AACSB: Knowledge Application
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Balanced Scorecard Approach

95. Which is more important to a company's *future* financial performance—the achievement of strategic objectives *or* the achievement of financial objectives? Why?

A good financial performance, by itself, is not enough. Of equal or greater importance is a company's strategic performance—outcomes that indicate whether a company's market position and competitiveness are deteriorating, holding steady, or improving. A stronger market standing and greater competitive vitality—especially when accompanied by competitive advantage—is what enables a company to improve its financial performance.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 3 Hard
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Setting Objectives

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96. What is the role and responsibility of a company's CEO in the strategy-making, strategy-executing process?

A company's senior executives obviously have lead strategy-making roles and responsibilities. The chief executive officer (CEO), as captain of the ship, carries the mantles of chief direction setter, chief objective setter, chief strategy maker, and chief strategy implementer for the total enterprise. Ultimate responsibility for *leading* the strategy-making, strategy-executing process rests with the CEO. And the CEO is always fully accountable for the results the strategy produces, whether good or bad. In some enterprises, the CEO or owner functions as chief architect of the strategy, personally deciding what the key elements of the company's strategy will be, although he or she may seek the advice of key subordinates and board members. A CEO-centered approach to strategy development is characteristic of small owner-managed companies and some large corporations that were founded by the present CEO or that have a CEO with strong strategic leadership skills.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: How Managers Execute Strategy Successfully

97. The task of crafting a company's strategy is typically a job for the company's whole management team, not just a small group of senior executives. True or false? Explain and support your answer.

True. The more a company's operations cut across different products, industries, and geographic areas, the more that headquarters executives have little option but to delegate considerable strategy-making authority to down-the-line managers in charge of particular subsidiaries, divisions, product lines, geographic sales offices, distribution centers, and plants. On-the-scene managers who oversee specific operating units can be reliably counted on to have more detailed command of the strategic issues and choices for the particular operating unit under their supervision—knowing the prevailing market and competitive conditions, customer requirements and expectations, and all the other relevant aspects affecting the several strategic options available. Managers with day-to-day familiarity of, and authority over, a specific operating unit thus have a big edge over headquarters executives in making wise strategic choices for their operating unit. The result is that, in most of today's companies, crafting and executing strategy is a *collaborative team effort* in which *every company manager plays a strategy-making role*—ranging from minor to major—for the area he or she heads.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 3 Hard
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: How Managers Execute Strategy Successfully

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98. Explain why a company's strategy is really a collection of strategies.

Ideally, the pieces of a company's strategy up and down the strategy hierarchy should be cohesive and mutually reinforcing, fitting together like a jigsaw puzzle. It is the responsibility of top executives to achieve this unity by clearly communicating the company's vision, objectives, and major strategy components to down-the-line managers and key personnel. Midlevel and frontline managers cannot craft unified strategic moves without first understanding the company's long-term direction and knowing the major components of the corporate and/or business strategies that their strategy-making efforts are supposed to support and enhance. Anything less than a unified collection of strategies weakens the overall strategy and is likely to impair company performance. Thus, as a general rule, strategy making must start at the top of the organization and then proceed downward from the corporate level to the business level and then from the business level to the associated functional and operating levels. Once strategies up and down the hierarchy have been created, lower-level strategies must be scrutinized for consistency with and support of higher-level strategies. Any strategy conflicts must be addressed and resolved, either by modifying the lower-level strategies with conflicting elements or by adapting the higher-level strategy to accommodate what may be more appealing strategy ideas and initiatives bubbling up from below.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 3 Hard
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Strategy and the Strategic Management Process

99. What is the strategy-making hierarchy for a diversified company? How does it differ from the strategy-making hierarchy for a single business company?

In diversified companies multiple and sometimes strikingly different businesses have to be managed, and crafting a full-fledged strategy involves four distinct types of strategic actions and initiatives, namely, corporate strategy, business strategy, functional-area strategy, and operating strategy. Each of these involves different facets of the company's overall strategy and calls for the participation of different types of managers. In single-business companies, the uppermost level of the strategy-making hierarchy is the business strategy, so a single-business company has three levels of strategy: business strategy, functional-area strategies, and operating strategies.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Strategy and the Strategic Management Process

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100. Discuss the meaning of each of the following levels of strategy and indicate what level of management tends to take the lead responsibility for crafting the strategy at each of the four levels.
a. corporate strategy
b. business strategy
c. functional-area strategy
d. operating strategy

a Corporate strategy is orchestrated by the CEO and other senior executives and establishes an overall strategy for managing a *set of businesses* in a diversified, multibusiness company.
b. Business strategy is concerned with strengthening the market position, building competitive advantage, and improving the performance of a single line of business unit.
c. Functional-area strategies concern the approaches employed in managing particular functions within a business—like research and development (R&D), production, procurement of inputs, sales and marketing, distribution, customer service, and finance.
d. Operating strategies concern the relatively narrow approaches for managing key operating units (e.g., plants, distribution centers, purchasing centers) and specific operating activities with strategic significance (e.g., quality control, materials purchasing, brand management, Internet sales).

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: Types of Functional Strategies

101. An organization's strategic plan consists of the actions which management plans to take in the near future. True or false? Explain and justify your answer.

True. Developing a strategic vision and mission, setting objectives, and crafting a strategy are basic direction-setting tasks. They map out where a company is headed, its purpose, the targeted strategic and financial outcomes, the basic business model, and the competitive moves and internal action approaches to be used in achieving the desired business results. Together, these elements constitute a strategic plan for coping with industry conditions, outcompeting rivals, meeting objectives, and making progress toward aspirational goals. Typically, a strategic plan includes a commitment to allocate resources to the plan and specifies a time period for achieving goals (usually three to five years).

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-03 Why the strategic initiatives taken at various organizational levels must be tightly coordinated to achieve companywide performance targets.
Topic: The Strategic Role of Managers in Strategy Formulation and Implementation

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102. Identify and explain three actions that top executives can take to help instill a spirit of high achievement into the corporate culture and mobilize organizational energy behind the drive for good strategy execution and operating excellence.

Each company manager has to think through the answer to the question "What needs to be done in my area to execute my piece of the strategic plan, and what actions should I take to get the process under way?" How much internal change is needed depends on how much of the strategy is new, how far internal practices and competencies deviate from what the strategy requires, and how well the present work culture supports good strategy execution. In most situations, managing the strategy execution process includes the following principal aspects:
• Creating a strategy-supporting structure.
• Staffing the organization to obtain needed skills and expertise.
• Developing and strengthening strategy-supporting resources and capabilities.
• Allocating ample resources to the activities critical to strategic success.
• Ensuring that policies and procedures facilitate effective strategy execution.
• Organizing the work effort along the lines of best practice.
• Installing information and operating systems that enable company personnel to perform essential activities.
• Motivating people and tying rewards directly to the achievement of performance objectives.
• Creating a company culture conducive to successful strategy execution.
• Exerting the internal leadership needed to propel implementation forward.

AACSB: Teamwork
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 3 Hard
Learning Objective: 02-04 What a company must do to achieve operating excellence and to execute its strategy proficiently.
Topic: How Managers Execute Strategy Successfully

103. Identify and explain four actions that top executives can take that are key elements in directing organizational action and building capabilities behind the drive for good strategy execution to meet or beat performance targets.

Management's action agenda for executing the chosen strategy emerges from assessing what the company will have to do to achieve the targeted financial and strategic performance. In most situations, managing the strategy execution process includes the following principal aspects:
• Creating a strategy-supporting structure.
• Staffing the organization to obtain needed skills and expertise.
• Developing and strengthening strategy-supporting resources and capabilities.
• Allocating ample resources to the activities critical to strategic success.
• Ensuring that policies and procedures facilitate effective strategy execution.
• Organizing the work effort along the lines of best practice.
• Installing information and operating systems that enable company personnel to perform essential activities.
• Motivating people and tying rewards directly to the achievement of performance objectives.
• Creating a company culture conducive to successful strategy execution.
• Exerting the internal leadership needed to propel implementation forward.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Understand
Difficulty: 3 Hard
Learning Objective: 02-04 What a company must do to achieve operating excellence and to execute its strategy proficiently.
Topic: How Managers Execute Strategy Successfully

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104. What are the duties of a company's board of directors in the strategy-making, strategy-executing process?

A company's board of directors has four important obligations to fulfill:
1. Oversee the company's financial accounting and financial reporting practices.
2. Critically appraise the company's direction, strategy, and business approaches.
3. Evaluate the caliber of senior executives' strategic leadership skills.
4. Institute a compensation plan for top executives that rewards them for actions and results that serve shareholder interests.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 1 Easy
Learning Objective: 02-05 The role and responsibility of a company's board of directors in overseeing the strategic management process.
Topic: The Role of the Board of Directors in Corporate Governance

105. List and briefly discuss at least three obligations of a company's board of directors in corporate governance and the strategy-making, strategy-executing process.

In their role as *agents* of shareholders, top executives have a clear and unequivocal duty to make decisions and operate the company in accord with shareholder interests. (This does not mean disregarding the interests of other stakeholders—employees, suppliers, the communities in which the company operates, and society at large.) Most boards of directors have a compensation committee, composed entirely of directors from *outside* the company, to develop a salary and incentive compensation plan that rewards senior executives for boosting the company's *long-term* performance on behalf of shareholders. Every corporation should have a strong independent board of directors that (1) is well informed about the company's performance, (2) guides and judges the CEO and other top executives, (3) has the courage to curb management actions the board believes are inappropriate or unduly risky, (4) certifies to shareholders that the CEO is doing what the board expects, (5) provides insight and advice to management, and (6) is intensely involved in debating the pros and cons of key decisions and actions. Boards of directors that lack the backbone to challenge a strong-willed or "imperial" CEO or that rubber-stamp almost anything the CEO recommends without probing inquiry and debate abdicate their fiduciary duty to represent and protect shareholder interests.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Remember
Difficulty: 2 Medium
Learning Objective: 02-05 The role and responsibility of a company's board of directors in overseeing the strategic management process.
Topic: The Role of the Board of Directors in Corporate Governance

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106. Ali is a business unit head of a soap manufacturing company. Explain the strategy he could use to strengthen his market position and build a competitive advantage over his rivals. Differentiate between his strategy and a corporate strategy.

Business strategy is concerned with strengthening the market position, building competitive advantage, and improving the performance of a single line of business unit. Business strategy is primarily the responsibility of business unit heads, although corporate-level executives may well exert strong influence.
Corporate strategy concerns how to improve the combined performance of the set of businesses the company has diversified into by capturing cross-business synergies and turning them into competitive advantage. It addresses the questions of what businesses to hold or divest, which new markets to enter, and how to best enter new markets (by acquisition, creation of a strategic alliance, or through internal development, for example). It is orchestrated by the CEO and other senior executives and establishes an overall strategy for managing a *set of businesses* in a diversified, multibusiness company.

AACSB: Analytical Thinking
Blooms: Apply
Difficulty: 3 Hard
Learning Objective: 02-02 The importance of setting both strategic and financial objectives.
Topic: Strategy and the Strategic Management Process

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