# Certified Treasury Professional Practice Exam (Sample)

**Study Guide** 



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## **Questions**



- 1. What is a key benefit of a well-managed cash position for a company?
  - A. Increased expenditures on non-core activities
  - B. Enhancement of short-term liquidity and financial stability
  - C. Creation of high-interest debt
  - D. Reduction of operational efficiencies
- 2. An appropriate yield for a T-bill investment is evaluated based on which factors?
  - A. The purchase price and time to maturity
  - B. The sale price and yield to maturity
  - C. The par value only
  - D. The related interest rates in the market
- 3. What technique should a U.S. company use to manage foreign exchange exposure when funding its Canadian subsidiary, given the U.S. dollar's expected depreciation?
  - A. Leading
  - B. Re-invoicing
  - C. Lagging
  - D. Multi currency accounts
- 4. How does economic theory benefit treasury management practice?
  - A. By increasing employee productivity
  - B. By providing frameworks to understand market operations
  - C. By improving customer relations
  - D. By reducing operational costs
- 5. What important tool is essential when redesigning cash management information systems?
  - A. ERP software
  - **B.** Treasury operations manual
  - C. Cash application
  - D. Treasury workstation

- 6. In a treasury management system, which task is considered significant during electronic payments?
  - A. Managing foreign exchange risks
  - B. Collecting payment-routing details
  - C. Monitoring cash balances
  - D. Preparing annual budgets
- 7. What are "sweeps" in cash management?
  - A. Manual accounting practices
  - B. Automated transfers that move excess funds into interest-earning accounts
  - C. Daily financial reports generated for management
  - D. Stock buyback initiatives by the company
- 8. What is true when a company purchases goods using trade credit from suppliers?
  - A. The buyer incurs no added cost if it pays on time.
  - B. The supplier will charge interest to the buyer.
  - C. The buyer should record this as a long-term liability.
  - D. The supplier places a lien on the goods sold until payment.
- 9. What are the possible types of forecasts for cash flow analysis?
  - A. Time series, Distribution, Degree of certainty
  - B. Receipts and disbursement, Risk assessment
  - C. Macro-economic, Micro-economic
  - D. Quantitative, Qualitative
- 10. Which of the following are considered the three main types of cash flow activities?
  - A. Operating, gambling, and financing activities
  - B. Investing, managing, and financing activities
  - C. Operating, investing, and financing activities
  - D. Personnel, investing, and operating activities

### **Answers**



- 1. B 2. A 3. A 4. B 5. B 6. B 7. B 8. A

- 9. A 10. C



## **Explanations**



#### 1. What is a key benefit of a well-managed cash position for a company?

- A. Increased expenditures on non-core activities
- B. Enhancement of short-term liquidity and financial stability
- C. Creation of high-interest debt
- D. Reduction of operational efficiencies

A well-managed cash position is crucial for a company's overall financial health, and one of its key benefits is the enhancement of short-term liquidity and financial stability. When a company efficiently manages its cash flow, it ensures that it has sufficient cash on hand to meet immediate obligations, such as paying suppliers, employees, and other operational expenses. This ability to readily access cash enhances the organization's liquidity position, allowing it to navigate unexpected financial challenges more effectively. Moreover, improved financial stability stems from having a reliable cash flow, which can provide the company with the flexibility to seize growth opportunities, invest in needed resources, or weather downturns without resorting to costly financing options. The absence of financial pressure enables management to focus on strategic decisions rather than just day-to-day survival, thus contributing to long-term sustainability and growth. In contrast, increased expenditures on non-core activities may divert resources from critical operations, creating financial strain. High-interest debt can lead to cash flow issues and negatively impact flexibility, while a reduction in operational efficiencies may arise from mismanaged cash, leading to higher costs and strained relationships with vendors and employees. Hence, a well-managed cash position distinctly supports both liquidity and stability.

#### 2. An appropriate yield for a T-bill investment is evaluated based on which factors?

- A. The purchase price and time to maturity
- B. The sale price and yield to maturity
- C. The par value only
- D. The related interest rates in the market

The appropriate yield for a T-bill investment is primarily evaluated based on the purchase price and time to maturity. Treasury bills (T-bills) are sold at a discount to their par value, and the yield is calculated as the difference between the purchase price and the par value, annualized based on the time remaining until maturity. The purchase price directly influences the yield; a lower purchase price results in a higher yield, while a higher purchase price yields less profit when the T-bill matures. Additionally, the time to maturity is crucial because it affects the annualization of the yield. T-bills can have varying maturities, typically ranging from a few days to a year, which means the yield must be expressed in terms of annual yield to allow for proper comparison with other investments. Market interest rates and other factors might influence the yield indirectly through their effect on demand and pricing of T-bills, but the primary calculation of yield remains rooted in the purchase price and maturity. Thus, focusing on these two factors provides a clear and accurate assessment of yield for T-bill investments.

- 3. What technique should a U.S. company use to manage foreign exchange exposure when funding its Canadian subsidiary, given the U.S. dollar's expected depreciation?
  - A. Leading
  - B. Re-invoicing
  - C. Lagging
  - D. Multi currency accounts

The technique that is most effective for a U.S. company managing foreign exchange exposure, particularly under the circumstance of anticipating a depreciation of the U.S. dollar against the Canadian dollar, is leading. Leading involves paying for expenses upfront before the cash outflow is due, which takes advantage of the current exchange rate before it deteriorates further. By funding the Canadian subsidiary earlier, the company can lock in a more favorable exchange rate, safeguarding against future losses that could stem from the dollar's depreciation. Through this strategy, the company mitigates potential risks associated with fluctuating currency values by capitalizing on the present exchange rate, ultimately protecting its financial interests as it navigates international transactions. This proactive approach is especially valuable when the currency of the subsidiary is expected to appreciate in relation to the parent company's currency, making early payments beneficial for limiting exposure to unfavorable movements in exchange rates.

- 4. How does economic theory benefit treasury management practice?
  - A. By increasing employee productivity
  - B. By providing frameworks to understand market operations
  - C. By improving customer relations
  - D. By reducing operational costs

Economic theory benefits treasury management practice primarily by providing frameworks to understand market operations. This connection is crucial because treasury management requires a deep understanding of financial markets, including interest rates, currency exchange rates, and overall economic conditions that impact liquidity, investment, and financing strategies. Understanding economic theories allows treasury professionals to analyze how different factors interact within the economy and influence financial instruments, market trends, and risk management. For instance, concepts such as supply and demand, inflation, and monetary policy can aid in predicting market movements, thereby informing more strategic decision-making in cash management, investment allocation, and funding decisions. By utilizing the principles of economic theory, treasury managers can create models that help in forecasting future cash flows and evaluating the impact of various economic scenarios on the organization's financial health. This foundational understanding equips treasury professionals to make informed choices, optimize financial resources, and ultimately support the organization's strategic objectives.

## 5. What important tool is essential when redesigning cash management information systems?

- A. ERP software
- **B.** Treasury operations manual
- C. Cash application
- **D.** Treasury workstation

A treasury operations manual is an essential tool when redesigning cash management information systems because it provides a comprehensive guide to existing processes, procedures, and best practices within the treasury function. Developing a clear understanding of current operations is crucial for identifying areas where enhancements can be made to improve efficiency, reduce risk, and align with the broader goals of the organization. Having a well-documented operations manual allows treasury professionals to ensure consistency in operations and maintain compliance with regulatory requirements. It also serves as a reference point during the redesign process, helping teams pinpoint existing challenges, establish benchmarks for what constitutes best practices, and specify necessary changes in the new system. By focusing on the specific operational details captured within the manual, organizations can tailor their new cash management information systems to meet unique needs, seamlessly integrating improved workflows and addressing pain points highlighted in past operations. This approach not only fosters a smoother transition to the new system but also enhances overall cash management effectiveness in the long run.

- 6. In a treasury management system, which task is considered significant during electronic payments?
  - A. Managing foreign exchange risks
  - **B.** Collecting payment-routing details
  - C. Monitoring cash balances
  - D. Preparing annual budgets

The task of collecting payment-routing details is significant during electronic payments in a treasury management system because it directly ensures that payments are directed to the correct accounts in a timely manner. Accurate payment-routing is crucial for the efficient processing of transactions, as it enables proper identification of the receiving bank and account numbers, which minimizes the risk of errors and delays. Effective collection of these details facilitates smooth electronic payments, reduces the likelihood of rejected transactions, and enhances overall cash management efficiency. The focus on this process is especially important in environments where timely payments are critical for maintaining good relationships with vendors and customers, as well as for ensuring compliance with various regulatory requirements. While managing foreign exchange risks, monitoring cash balances, and preparing annual budgets are all important tasks within treasury management, they do not have the immediate operational impact on the execution of electronic payments that collecting payment-routing details does. Each of these other tasks plays a crucial role in broader financial management, but in the specific context of executing electronic payments, ensuring correct routing details is paramount.

#### 7. What are "sweeps" in cash management?

- A. Manual accounting practices
- B. Automated transfers that move excess funds into interest-earning accounts
- C. Daily financial reports generated for management
- D. Stock buyback initiatives by the company

Sweeps in cash management refer to automated transfers that move excess funds into interest-earning accounts. This practice is designed to optimize the use of available cash by ensuring that any idle cash is invested or placed in accounts that generate interest, rather than sitting in non-interest-bearing accounts. The primary purpose of sweeps is to enhance a company's liquidity management by maximizing returns on cash holdings. Through these automated processes, businesses can efficiently allocate their resources, maintaining sufficient liquidity for operational needs while also earning interest on surplus funds. This balancing act is essential for effective cash management, particularly in environments where cash flows can be unpredictable. Other options, while related to financial processes, do not accurately capture the essence of sweeps. Manual accounting practices involve manual bookkeeping and are not automated or necessarily focused on optimizing cash balances. Daily financial reports are typically used for internal decision-making but do not directly relate to the movement of funds between accounts. Stock buyback initiatives refer to a corporate action of repurchasing its shares from the marketplace, which is unrelated to cash management strategies aimed at optimizing cash balances.

# 8. What is true when a company purchases goods using trade credit from suppliers?

- A. The buyer incurs no added cost if it pays on time.
- B. The supplier will charge interest to the buyer.
- C. The buyer should record this as a long-term liability.
- D. The supplier places a lien on the goods sold until payment.

When a company purchases goods using trade credit from suppliers, it is generally true that the buyer incurs no added cost if it pays on time. Trade credit is a short-term financing arrangement that allows a buyer to receive goods or services and defer payment for a specified period, often without any additional charges. If the buyer adheres to the agreed-upon payment terms, there are no interest costs or penalties, making it an attractive financing option for maintaining cash flow while acquiring necessary goods. Recording trade credit as a long-term liability would be inaccurate because it is typically considered a short-term liability, reflecting obligations due within a year. Similarly, a supplier typically does not charge interest during the credit period unless the terms explicitly state that late fees apply after a certain date or if payment is extended beyond the agreed-upon terms. While suppliers may have the right to secure a lien on the goods sold in some cases to ensure fulfillment of payment, this is not a universal practice for all trade credit transactions.

- 9. What are the possible types of forecasts for cash flow analysis?
  - A. Time series, Distribution, Degree of certainty
  - B. Receipts and disbursement, Risk assessment
  - C. Macro-economic, Micro-economic
  - D. Quantitative, Qualitative

In the context of cash flow analysis, a comprehensive understanding of the different types of forecasts aids in effectively predicting and managing cash needs and liquidity. The correct choice identifies three core elements of forecasting methods. Time series forecasting involves analyzing historical cash flow data to predict future cash flows based on past trends. This method relies on patterns and cycles found within time-ordered data, allowing organizations to anticipate cash demands and surpluses more reliably. Distribution forecasting refers to the statistical approaches that involve determining the probability distribution of cash flows, which helps in evaluating the various scenarios regarding the timing and amounts of cash receipts and payments. This method provides insights into the likelihood of achieving certain cash flow levels, enhancing strategic decision-making. The concept of degree of certainty pertains to how confident the forecasting approaches are regarding the predictions made. Understanding this aspect is critical, as it influences planning and risk management decisions based on the expected reliability of the forecasts. The other choices, while they include important concepts related to cash flow management, do not encompass the full array of forecasting types: -Receipts and disbursement focuses on transactional elements without considering the broader analytical frameworks like time series and distribution methods. -Macro-economic and micro-economic forecasting involves the broader economic environment and specific organizational or industry factors, yet

- 10. Which of the following are considered the three main types of cash flow activities?
  - A. Operating, gambling, and financing activities
  - B. Investing, managing, and financing activities
  - C. Operating, investing, and financing activities
  - D. Personnel, investing, and operating activities

The three main types of cash flow activities recognized in financial reporting are operating, investing, and financing activities. Operating activities refer to the primary revenue-generating activities of a business, which include transactions that affect net income, such as receipts from sales of goods and services and payments to suppliers and employees. These activities provide insight into the company's core business performance. Investing activities involve the acquisition and disposal of long-term assets and investments. This includes purchases of property, plant, equipment, and securities, as well as the cash inflows from the sale of these assets. Understanding investing activities helps stakeholders assess how the company is allocating its resources for future growth. Financing activities encompass transactions that affect a company's equity and debt. This includes borrowing funds, repaying borrowings, issuing stock, and paying dividends. Analyzing financing activities gives insight into how a company finances its operations and growth. Recognizing these three categories is fundamental for analyzing a company's cash flow statement, as it allows stakeholders to evaluate the sources and uses of cash, which is crucial for understanding overall financial health and sustainability.