



The Core Body of Knowledge for Business Valuations

New BOK
Percentage
Emphasis on
CVA Exam

SUBJECT MATTER

I. OVERVIEW

4.0%

- A. Purpose for business valuation
 - 1. Financial accounting
 - 2. Tax valuations
 - 3. Litigation
 - 4. Merger and acquisition
- B. Standards of value
 - 1. Definitions of standards of value, including
 - a) Fair market value (U.S. based definition as starting point)
 - b) Statutory fair value
 - c) Financial reporting fair value
 - (1) IFRS
 - (2) U.S. GAAP
 - d) Investment (strategic) value
 - e) Intrinsic (fundamental) value
 - 2. Relationship between purpose of the valuation and standard of value
- C. Premise of value
 - 1. Going concern
 - 2. Assemblage of assets
 - 3. Liquidation (orderly or forced)
- D. Principles of value
 - 1. Value is determined as of specific point in time
 - 2. Value reflects prospective cash flow
 - 3. Value reflects the level of risk into the rate of return
 - 4. Value is influenced by liquidity
- E. Levels of value
 - 1. Lack of control (minority vs. control)
 - 2. Marketable vs. non-marketable
 - 3. Strategic and investment value

II. PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND STANDARDS

4.5%

- A. NACVA Standards
- B. Ethical considerations
- C. Communicating and reporting analysis and results
- D. Roles of the valuation analyst in litigation services



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III. ENGAGEMENT ACCEPTANCE AND PLANNING

3.0%

- A. Defining the engagement
 - 1. Valuation date and its importance
 - 2. Structure of the entity
 - 3. Interest being valued
 - 4. Purpose and objective of valuation
 - 5. Standard of value and premise of value
 - 6. Conflict checks
- B. Engagement Letters
 - 1. Purpose
 - 2. Content
- C. Acceptance
 - 1. Experience
 - 2. Staffing
 - 3. Expectations

IV. QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

9.0%

- A. International Sources of Data
- B. Economic Environment
 - 1. Macro-environment
 - 2. Micro-environment
 - 3. Relationship of economic activity to the valuation
- C. Industry background
 - 1. Economic data
 - 2. Structure, trends, and life cycle
 - 3. Market and competitive analysis
- D. Company background
 - 1. Company structure and ownership
 - 2. Site visit and interviews with key personnel
 - 3. History and nature
 - 4. Economic data (cost structure, pricing power, marginal analysis)
 - 5. SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats)

V. QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

15.5%

- A. Financial statements
 - 1. Source (audited/reviewed/compiled/tax returns/internal)
 - 2. Number of years to obtain
 - 3. Common size
 - 4. Trend analysis
 - 5. Ratios
 - 6. Comparative analysis
 - a) Specific company
 - b) Industry averages



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- B. Adjustments to financial statements
 - 1. Normalizing
 - a) Control vs. non-control
 - b) Discretionary
 - c) Reasonable compensation analysis
 - d) Extraordinary/non-recurring
 - 2. Operating vs. non-operating items
 - 3. Off-balance sheet and unrecorded items
- C. Statistical Analysis
 - 1. Measures of central tendency (arithmetic, harmonic, geometric means)
 - 2. Measures of dispersion (including variance and standard deviation)
 - 3. Statistical strengths of numerical relationships (including covariance, correlation, coefficient of determination, and coefficient of variation)
 - 4. Linear regression
- D. Types of benefit streams and selection
 - 1. Selection of appropriate time periods (including mid-year convention)
 - 2. Selection of appropriate type of income/cash flow
 - 3. Growth assumptions
 - a) Trend line projected
 - b) Constant
 - c) Erratic
 - d) Level
 - e) Declining growth approaches
 - 4. Historical vs. projection based on considerations
 - 5. Relating effects due to economic/industry events and trends

VI. VALUATION APPROACHES

28%

- A. Income approach
 - 1. General theory
 - 2. Defining applicable income/cash flow
 - 3. Sources of data
 - 4. Capitalization vs. discount rates
 - 5. Commonly used methods
 - a) Discounted economic income/cash flow method (DCF) (multi-stage model)
 - (1) The method is applied using cash flow available to invested capital
 - (2) The method is applied using cash flow available to equity
 - b) Capitalized economic income/cash flow method (CCF), including Gordon Growth Model (constant growth model)
 - (1) The method is applied using cash flow available to invested capital
 - (2) The method is applied using cash flow available to equity
 - c) Excess earnings (cash flow) method
 - d) Dividend paying capacity



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- B. Market approach
 - 1. General theory
 - 2. Commonly used methods
 - a) Transactions in subject company's stock
 - b) Transactions/sales of companies similar to subject
 - (1) Guideline public companies
 - (a) General theory
 - (b) Selecting guideline companies
 - i) Sources of data
 - ii) Size adjustments
 - (c) Equity vs. invested capital (including multiples)
 - (d) Selection of appropriate time periods
 - (e) Selection of appropriate multiples
 - i) Adjusting for growth, size, and company specific risk
 - (2) Guideline merged and acquired companies
 - (a) General theory
 - (b) Sources of data/relevant transactional databases
 - (c) Consideration of the selection of data points
- C. Asset Approach
 - 1. General theory
 - 2. Sources of data
 - 3. Commonly used methods
 - a) Book value
 - b) Net tangible value
 - c) Adjusted net asset method (intangible and tangible assets)
 - d) Excess earnings method
 - e) Liquidation method (forced or orderly)
 - 4. Identifying and valuing intangible assets
 - a) Approaches and methods
 - b) Estimated life
 - c) Impairment
 - 5. Off-balance sheet and unrecorded items (including tax issues)
- D. Sanity Checks
 - 1. General theory
 - 2. Sources of data
 - 3. Commonly used methods
 - a) Industry formulas ("Rules of Thumb")
 - b) Justification of purchase
- E. Reconciliation of indicated values



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VII. COST OF CAPITAL CONCEPTS AND METHODOLOGY, AND OTHER PRICING MODELS	17.5%
A. Capital asset pricing model (CAPM)	
1. Risk free rate	
2. Equity risk premium	
3. Beta (β) including un-levered and re-levered	
B. Build-up method and Modified CAPM	
1. Risk free rate	
2. Equity risk premium	
3. Beta (β) including un-levered and re-levered	
4. Size risk premium	
5. Industry risk premium	
6. Company specific risk	
7. Long-term sustainable growth	
8. Other	
C. Weighted average cost of capital	
D. Converting after tax risk rates to pre-tax rates	
E. Other recognized methods (e.g. Gordon Growth, Arbitrage Pricing, Fama-French Three Factor, Market Multiples, Risk Rate Component Model)	
VIII. DISCOUNTS, PREMIUMS, AND OTHER ADJUSTMENTS	13%
A. Levels of value and effect on discounts and premiums	
1. Synergistic value	
2. Control value	
3. Non-controlling, marketable value	
4. Non-controlling, non-marketable value	
B. Adjustments for Control Issues	
1. General theory	
2. Sources of data	
3. Ownership characteristics	
4. Magnitude	
5. Relationship to how benefit stream is defined	
C. Adjustments for Marketability Issues	
1. General theory	
2. Sources of data	
3. Ownership characteristics	
4. Restrictions on transferability	
5. Magnitude	
6. Models	
D. Discounts and premiums—understanding the empirical studies	
E. Subsequent events	
F. Other valuation discounts and adjustments (e.g. Key Person, Blockage, Restrictive Agreement, Lack of Voting, Lack of Liquidity, Contingent Liabilities)	



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IX. SPECIAL PURPOSE VALUATION

5.5%

- A. Intangible assets
- B. Debt securities
- C. Convertible securities
- D. Preferred stock
- E. Stock options
- F. Voting vs. Non-voting stock
- G. Professional vs. practice goodwill
- H. Other special purpose valuations (e.g. Fair Value, Mergers and Acquisitions, Pension Benefits, Insurance policies)

Total 100%