

MOCK TEST PAPER 2
INTERMEDIATE GROUP – I
PAPER – 2: CORPORATE AND OTHER LAWS
ANSWERS

Division A

- I. 1. (a)
- 2. (d)
- 3. (d)
- 4. (c)
- II. 5. (a)
- 6. (b)
- 7. (c)
- 8. (b)
- 9. (b)
- 10. (c)
- 11. (d)
- 12. (b)
- 13. (c)
- 14. (d)
- 15. (d)
- 16. (a)
- 17. (c)
- 18. (b)
- 19. (c)
- 20. (a)
- 21. (b)
- 22. (a)

Division B

- 1. (a) (i) As per section 141 (3)(d)(i) of the Companies Act, 2013, read with Rule 10 of the Companies (Audit and Auditors) Rules, 2014, a person is disqualified to be appointed as an auditor if he, or his relative or partner holding any security of or interest in the company or its subsidiary, or of its holding or associate company or a subsidiary of such holding company.

Hence, Maninder is disqualified to be appointed as an auditor in Gajendra Ltd. as he holds securities in the Narender Ltd. (associate company of Gajendra Ltd.)

- (ii) As per section 141(3)(d)(ii) a person is disqualified to be appointed as an auditor if he, or his relative or partner is indebted to the company, or its subsidiary, or its holding or associate company or a subsidiary of such holding company, in excess of ₹ 5 Lacs.

Hence, Dinesh is not disqualified as the limit of indebtedness for the auditor or his relative is exceeding Rs.5,00,000 and in this case Dinesh's son owes only ₹ 99,000.

- (iii) As per section 141(3)(h), a person who has been convicted by a court of an offence involving fraud and a period of 10 years has not elapsed from the date of such conviction, shall not be qualified to be appointed as an auditor of a company.

Though Rajender was convicted by a court for an offence involving fraud but as a period of 10 years have elapsed, hence, Rajendra is qualified to be appointed as statutory auditor of Gajendra Ltd.

- (b) As per Section 2(85) of the Companies Act 2013 read with Rule 2(1)(t) of the Companies (Specification of definitions Details) Rules, 2014, "Small Company" means a company, other than a public company, having—

- (i) paid-up share capital of which does not exceed two crores rupees; and
(ii) turnover of which as per profit and loss account for the immediately preceding financial year does not exceed twenty crore rupees:

Provided that nothing in this clause shall apply to—

- (A) a holding company or a subsidiary company;
(B) a company registered under section 8; or
(C) a company or body corporate governed by any special Act;

In the given case, AJD Pvt. Ltd. satisfies the turnover and paid up share capital criteria to be small company, but being a subsidiary of K Ltd (a listed), it falls under the exclusions to the definition and hence is not a small Company.

- (c) According to section 211 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, an agent is bound to conduct the business of his principal according to the direction given by the principal, or, in the absence of any such directions, according to the custom which prevails in doing business of the same kind at the place where the agent conducts such business. When the agent acts otherwise, if any loss be sustained, he must make it good to his principal, and, if any profit accrues, he must account for it.

In the present case, Mr. Pintu, one of the agents, sold goods of A Ltd. to Parul Pvt. Ltd. (on credit) which was insolvent at the time of such sale. Also, it is not the custom in A Ltd. to sell the products on credit.

Hence, Mr. Pintu must make good the loss to A Ltd.

- (d) **Person to be called as a holder:** As per section 8 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 'holder' of a Negotiable Instrument means any person entitled in his own name to the possession of it and to receive or recover the amount due thereon from the parties thereto.

On applying the above provision in the given cases—

- (i) Babita is not a holder because she is in wrongful possession of the instrument (as she stole and forged Aman's signature).
(ii) Arvind is not a 'holder' because to be called as a 'holder' he must be entitled not only to the possession of the instrument but also to receive the amount mentioned therein.

2. (a) Rule 2 (1) (c) of the Companies (Acceptance of Deposit) Rules, 2014 states various amounts received by a company which will not be considered as deposits. In terms of this Rule the answers to the given situations shall be as under:

(i) In terms of Rule 2 (1)(c)(x), any amount received from an employee of the company not exceeding his annual salary under a contract of employment with the company in the nature of non-interest bearing security deposit, shall not be treated as deposit.

₹ 2,00,000 received by Yash Limited from its employee Mr. A, who draws an annual salary of ₹ 1,50,000, as a non-interest bearing security deposit under a contract of employment will be considered as deposit in terms of sub-clause (x) of Rule 2(1)(c), for the amount received is more than his annual salary of ₹ 1,50,000.

(ii) In terms of Rule 2 (1)(c)(viii), any amount received from a person who is director of the company at the time of giving loan to the company shall not be treated as deposit if such director furnishes to the company at the time of giving money, a written declaration to the effect that the amount is not being given out of funds acquired by him by borrowing or accepting loans or deposits from others and further, the company shall disclose the details of money so accepted in the Board's report.

In the given case, ₹ 30,00,000 received as a loan by Textile Traders Limited from R (a director) shall not be treated as deposit, if he was a director at the time of giving such loan and had furnished to the company at time of giving money, a written declaration to the effect that the amount was not being given out of funds acquired by him by borrowing or accepting loans or deposits from others and in addition, the company had disclosed the details of money so accepted in the appropriate Board's report.

(b) (i) Inspection by Directors

As per Section 128(3) of the Companies Act, 2013, any director can inspect the books of account and other books and papers of the company during business hours. Such inspection may be done by any type of director - nominee, independent, promoter or whole time.

The proviso to sub-section 3 provides that a person can inspect the books of account of the subsidiary, only on authorisation by way of the resolution of Board of Directors.

Assistance by officers and Employees

As per Section 128(4), where an inspection is made under sub-section (3), the officers and other employees of the company shall give to the person making such inspection all assistance in connection with the inspection which the company may reasonably be expected to give.

(ii) Period for preservation of books

According to section 128(5) of the Companies Act, 2013, the books of accounts, together with vouchers relevant to any entry in such books, are required to be preserved in good order by the company for a period of not less than eight years immediately preceding the relevant financial year.

In case of a company incorporated less than eight years before the financial year, the books of accounts for the entire period preceding the financial year together with the vouchers shall be so preserved.

As per proviso to sub-section 5, where an investigation has been ordered in respect of a company under Chapter XIV of the Act related to inspection, inquiry or investigation, the Central Government may direct that the books of account may be kept for such period longer than 8 years, as it may deem fit and give directions to that effect.

- (c) According to section 178A of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, when the pawnor has obtained possession of the goods pledged by him under a contract voidable under section 19 or section 19A, but the contract has not been rescinded at the time of the pledge, the pawnee acquires a good title to the goods, provided he acts in good faith and without notice of the pawnor's defect of title.

Therefore, the pledge of diamond by Prisha with Mr. Vikas is valid.

(d) Dishonour by Non-acceptance

A bill of exchange is said to be dishonoured by non-acceptance in any one of the following ways (Section 91):

- (1) When a bill is duly presented for acceptance, and the drawee, or one of several drawees not being partners, refuse acceptance within forty- eight hours from the time of presentment, the bill is dishonored. In other words, when the drawee makes default in acceptance upon being duly required to accept the bill.
- (2) where presentment is excused, and the bill is not accepted.
- (3) Where the drawee is incompetent to contract, the bill may be treated as dishonored.
- (4) Where the drawee is a fictitious person.
- (5) Where the drawee could not be found even after reasonable search
- (6) When a drawee gives a qualified acceptance, the holder may treat the instrument dishonored.

3. (a) (i) The requirement of having a minimum paid up share capital shall not apply to a section 8 company *vide notification dated 5th June 2015*.
- (ii) Yes, under section 8(3) of the Companies Act, 2013, a firm may be a member of the company registered under section 8.
- (iii) According to Section 8(1)(c) of the Companies Act, 2013, section 8 company cannot pay dividend to its members as it prohibits the payment of dividends to its members.
- (b) As per section 123(3) of the Companies Act, 2013, the Board of Directors of a company may declare interim dividend during any financial year out of the surplus in the profit and loss account and out of profits of the financial year in which such interim dividend is sought to be declared.

Provided that in case the company has incurred loss during the current financial year up to the end of the quarter immediately preceding the date of declaration of interim dividend, such interim dividend shall not be declared at a rate higher than the average dividends declared by the company during the immediately preceding three financial years.

According to the given facts, Guru Ltd. is facing loss in business during the financial year 2018-2019. In the immediate preceding three financial years, the company declared dividend at the rate of 7%, 11% and 12% respectively. Accordingly, the rate of dividend declared shall not exceed 10%, the average of the rates $(7+11+12=30/3)$ at which dividend was declared by it during the immediately preceding three financial years.

Therefore, the act of the Board of Directors as to declaration of interim dividend at the rate of 12% during the financial year 2018-2019 is not valid.

- (c) According to section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, where any cheque drawn by a person on an account maintained by him with a banker for payment of any amount of money to another person from/out of that account for discharging any debt or liability, and if it is

dishonoured by banker on sufficient grounds, such person shall be deemed to have committed an offence and shall be liable.

According to section 141, if the person committing an offence under section 138 is a company, every person who, at the time the offence was committed was in charge of, and was responsible to the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

However, in this case, Mudit is neither a director nor a person-in-charge of the company and is not connected with the day-to-day affairs of the company and had neither opened nor is operating the bank account of the company. Further, the cheque, which was dishonoured, was also not drawn on an account maintained by him but was drawn on an account maintained by the company. Therefore, Mudit has not committed an offence under section 138.

- (d) (i) **Ambiguous definitions:** Sometime, we may find that the definition section may itself be ambiguous, and so it may have to be interpreted in the light of the other provisions of the Act and having regard to the ordinary meaning of the word defined. Such type of definition is not to be read in isolation. It must be read in the context of the phrase which it defines, realising that the function of a definition is to give accuracy and certainty to a word or phrase which would otherwise be vague and uncertain but not to contradict it or depose it altogether.
- (ii) **Definitions subject to a contrary context:** When a word is defined to bear a number of inclusive meanings, the sense in which the word is used in a particular provision must be ascertained from the context of the scheme of the Act, the language of the provision and the object intended to be served thereby.
4. (a) According to section 16 of the Companies Act, 2013 if a company is registered by a name which,—
- ◆ in the opinion of the Central Government, is identical with the name by which a company had been previously registered, it may direct the company to change its name. Then the company shall by passing an ordinary resolution change its name within 3 months.
 - ◆ is identical with a registered trade mark and owner of that trade mark apply to the Central Government within three years of incorporation of registration of the company, it may direct the company to change its name. Then the company shall change its name by passing an ordinary resolution within 3 months.

Company shall give notice to ROC along with the order of Central Government within 15 days of change. In case of default, company and defaulting officer are punishable.

In the given case, owner of registered trade- mark is filing objection after 5 years of registration of company with identical name. While it should have filed the same within 3 years. Therefore, the company cannot be compelled to change its name.

As per section 13, company can anytime change its name by passing a special resolution and taking approval of Central Government. Therefore, if owner of registered trademark requests the company for change of its name and the company accepts the same then it can change its name voluntarily by following the provisions of section 13.

- (b) According to section 80 of the Companies Act, 2013, where any charge on any property or assets of a company or any of its undertakings is registered under section 77 of the Companies Act, 2013, any person acquiring such property, assets, undertakings or part thereof or any share or interest therein shall be deemed to have notice of the charge from the date of such registration.

Thus, section 80 clarifies that if any person acquires a property, assets or undertaking in respect of which a charge is already registered, it would be deemed that he has complete knowledge of charge from the date of its registration. Mr. Parth, therefore, ought to have been careful while purchasing property and should have verified beforehand that PQR Limited had already created a charge on the property.

In view of above, the contention of PQR Limited is correct.

- (c) As per the provisions of section 16 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, the authority having for the time being power to make the appointment shall also have power to suspend or dismiss any person appointed whether by itself or any other authority in exercise of that power.

Mr. Munim was appointed in board meeting of Sabarwal Construction Private Limited to appoint five employees for accounts department of company. Mr. Munim appointed five employees. After one month, he issued the order of dismissal to one of those five employees. That employee filed an application in the court challenging the validity of dismissal order with the words that Mr. Munim was authorised only for appointment of employees not for dismissal.

On the basis of above provisions and facts of the case, Mr. Rupal was not correct with his words because as per the General Clauses Act, 1897, power to appoint includes power to suspend or dismiss. Hence, Mr. Munim has power to dismiss Mr. Rupal.

- (d) The rules regarding interpretation of deeds and documents are as follows:

First and the foremost point that has to be borne in mind is that one has to find out what reasonable man, who has taken care to inform himself of the surrounding circumstances of a deed or a document, and of its scope and intendments, would understand by the words used in that deed or document.

It is inexpedient to construe the terms of one deed by reference to the terms of another. Further, it is well established that the same word cannot have two different meanings in the same documents, unless the context compels the adoption of such a rule.

The Golden Rule is to ascertain the intention of the parties of the instrument after considering all the words in the documents/deed concerned in their ordinary, natural sense. For this purpose, the relevant portions of the document have to be considered as a whole. The circumstances in which the particular words have been used have also to be taken into account. Very often, the status and training of the parties using the words have also to be taken into account as the same words maybe used by an ordinary person in one sense and by a trained person or a specialist in quite another sense and a special sense. It has also to be considered that very many words are used in more than one sense. It may happen that the same word understood in one sense will give effect to all the clauses in the deed while taken in another sense might render one or more of the clauses ineffective. In such a case the word should be understood in the former and not in the latter sense.

It may also happen that there is a conflict between two or more clauses of the same documents. An effect must be made to resolve the conflict by interpreting the clauses so that all the clauses are given effect. If, however, it is not possible to give effect of all of them, then it is the earlier clause that will override the latter one.

5. (a) According to section 20(2) of the Companies Act, 2013, a document may be served on Registrar or any member by sending it to him by post or by registered post or by speed post or by courier or by delivering at his office or address, or by such electronic or other mode as may be prescribed.

Provided that a member may request for delivery of any document through a particular mode, for which he shall pay such fees as may be determined by the company in its annual general meeting.

Thus, if a member wants the notice to be served on him only by registered post at his residential address at Kanpur for which he has deposited sufficient money, the notice must be served accordingly, otherwise service will not be deemed to have been effected.

Accordingly, the questions as asked may be answered as under:

- (i) The contention of Amar shall be tenable, for the reason that the notice was not properly served.
 - (ii) In the given circumstances, the company is bound to serve a valid notice to Amar by registered post at his residential address at Kanpur and not outside India.
- (b) According to section 103(1) of the Companies Act, 2013, unless the articles of the company provide for a larger number, in case of a public company:
- (1) five members personally present if the number of members as on the date of meeting is not more than one thousand,
 - (2) fifteen members personally present if the number of members as on the date of meeting is more than one thousand but up to five thousand,
 - (3) thirty members personally present if the number of members as on the date of the meeting exceeds five thousand.

The term 'members personally present' as mentioned above refers to the members entitled to vote in respect of the items of business on the agenda of the meeting.

Thus,

- (a) If the company has 800 members, quorum shall be 5 members personally present.
 - (b) If the company has 6500 members, quorum shall be 30 members personally present.
 - (c) If the company has 5500 members, quorum shall be 30 members personally present. However, since the articles of association has prescribed the quorum for the meeting to be 50, the quorum shall be 50 (higher of 30 and 50).
- (c) (i) **Agent:** means a person employed to do any act for another or to represent another in dealing with the third persons and
- The principal:** means a person for whom such act is done or who is so represented.
- (ii) **Who may employ an agent:** According to section 183 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, "any person who has attained majority according to the law to which he is subject, and who is of sound mind, may employ an agent." Thus, a minor or a person of unsound mind cannot appoint an agent.
- (d) (i) **Movable Property:** According to section 3(36) of the General Clauses Act, 1897, 'Movable Property' shall mean property of every description, except immovable property.
- Thus, any property which is not immovable property is movable property. Debts, share, electricity are moveable property.
- (ii) **Person:** According to section 3(42) of the General Clauses Act, 1897, 'Person' shall include any company or association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not.