



TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MOMBASA

School of Business

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING & FINANCE

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR:

BACHELOR OF COMMERCE

BMS 4304: FINANCIAL FORECASTING AND MODELLING

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION

SERIES: AUGUST 2019

TIME: 2 HOURS

Instructions to Candidates

You should have the following for this examination

-Answer Booklet, examination pass and student ID

This paper consists of **FIVE questions**.

Attempt **Question ONE** (Compulsory) and any other **TWO Questions**.

Do NOT write on the question paper.

Question ONE (Compulsory)

- (a) A company has the following data for output and costs of production over the past five months for the year 20x1:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Output</u> <u>(in 000 units)</u>	<u>Costs</u> <u>Sh.000</u>
1	20	82
2	16	70
3	24	90
4	22	85
5	18	73

Required:

- Establish a financial model (equation) to determine the expected cost level for any given output. **(5 marks)**
- Forecast total costs if output is 23,000 units. **(5 marks)**

- (b) Discuss the conditions that are suitable for the use of linear regression analysis when forecasting. **(6 marks)**
- (c) A time series model may be considered to have four components of variation: the trend, T; the seasonal component, S; the cyclical component, C; and the residual (or irregular, or random) component, R.

Required:

Give accounts (details) of each of the above components. **(8 marks)**

- (d) (i) What are the major problems faced by managers when forecasting? **(3 marks)**
- (ii) What would you advise your management team in your company to do with forecasting problems? **(3 marks)**

(Total marks = 30)

Question TWO

The sales (in sh'000) of swimwear by a large department store for each period of three months and trend values found using moving average are as follows:

Quarter	20x4		20x5		20x6		20x7	
	Actual Sh'000	Trend Sh'000	Actual Sh'000	Trend Sh'000	Actual Sh'000	Trend Sh'000	Actual Sh'000	Trend Sh'000
First			8		20	40	40	57
Second			30	30	50	45	62	
Third			60	31	80	50	92	
Fourth	24		20	35	40	54		

Using the additive model, seasonal variations have been determined as follows:

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
-sh.18,250	+sh.2,750	+sh.29,750	-sh.14,250

Required:

Forecast sales for the last quarter of 20x7 and the first quarter of 20x8, stating any assumptions.

(20 marks)

Question THREE

RJ Ltd is a supplier of surgical instruments and medical supplies. The company is doing well and now needs additional capital to expand its operations.

The following financial statements are given below:

Extracts from Income Statement for the year ended 31 December 20x5

	<u>Sh.000</u>
Revenue	30,120
Costs and expenses	<u>22,500</u>
Operating profit	7,620
Finance costs	<u>2,650</u>
Profit before tax	4,970
Tax	1,491

Note: Dividends declared for 20x5 are sh.1,392,000.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 20x5

	<u>Sh.000</u>	<u>Sh.000</u>
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		14,425
<u>Current Assets:</u>		
Inventories	4,510	
Trade receivables	3,700	
Cash	<u>198</u>	
		<u>8,408</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>22,833</u>
EQUITY AND LIABILITIS		
<u>Equity:</u>		
Share capital	8,350	
Retained earnings	<u>4,750</u>	
		13,100
<u>Non-current Liabilities</u>		
(Secured bonds, 6% 20x8)		4,000
<u>Current liabilities</u>		
Trade payables	2,850	
Other payables (tax and dividends)	<u>2,883</u>	
		<u>5,733</u>
		<u>22,833</u>

Additional information:

1. Revenue is expected to increase by 10% per annum in each of the financial years ending 31 December 20x6 and 20x7. Costs and expenses, excluding depreciation, are expected to increase by an average of 5% per annum. Finance costs are expected to remain unchanged.
2. RJ Ltd expects to continue to be liable for tax at the rate of 30%. Assume tax is paid or refunded the following year that in which the liability or repayment arises.
3. The ratios of trade receivables to revenue and trade payable to costs and expenses will remain the same for the next two years. The value of inventories is likely to remain at 20x5 levels.
4. The non-current assets are land and buildings, which are not depreciated in RJ Ltd's books. Capital (tax) allowances on the buildings may be ignored. All other assets used by the entity (machinery, vehicles etc) are leased on operating leases.
5. Dividends will be increased by 5% each year.
6. RJ Ltd intends to purchase for cash new machinery to the value of sh.6 million during 20x6. It will be depreciated using straight line basis over 10 years. RJ Ltd intends to charge a full year's depreciation in the first year of purchase of its assets. Capital (tax) allowances are available at 25% reducing balance on this expenditure.

RJ Ltd's main financial objectives for the years 20x6 – 20x7 are to earn a pre-tax return on the closing book of equity of 35% per annum and a year-on year increase in earnings of 10%.

Required:

Assume you are a consultant working for RJ Ltd. Evaluate the implications of the financial information you have obtained. You should:

- (i) Provide forecast income statements, dividends and retentions for the two years ending 31 December 20x6 and 20x7. **(10 marks)**
- (ii) Provide cashflow forecasts for the years 20x6 and 20x7. Comment briefly on how RJ Ltd might finance any cash deficit. **(6 marks)**
- (iii) Discuss the key aspects and implications of the financial information you have obtained in your answer to parts (i) and (ii), in particular whether RJ Ltd is likely to meet its stated objectives. Provide whatever calculations you think are appropriate to support your discussion. **(4 marks)**

Question FOUR

A company has the following data on its profits and advertising expenditure over the last 6 years:

Year	Profits Sh.millions	Advertising Expenditure Sh.millions
20x1	11.3	0.52
20x2	12.1	0.61
20x3	14.1	0.63
20x4	14.6	0.70
20x5	15.1	0.70
20x6	15.2	0.75

Required:

- a) Compute the correlation coefficient. **(8 marks)**
- b) Determine the least-squares regression line (model). **(8 marks)**
- c) Forecast the profits for next year if an advertising budget of sh.0.8million is allocated. **(4 marks)**

Question FIVE

Spreadsheet packages can be used to build business models to assist the forecasting and planning process. They are particularly useful for “what if?” analysis.

Required:

- (a) Discuss the idea behind a spreadsheet and indicate how a model builder may construct a model through the use of a spreadsheet. **(10 marks)**
- (b) Identify the advantages and disadvantages of spreadsheets in business applications. **(10 marks)**