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## **Chapter 2 Strategy and Human Resources Planning**

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1. What is human resources planning?
  - a. a technique that identifies the critical aspects of a job
  - b. the process of anticipating and making provisions for movement of people into, within, and out of an organization
  - c. the process of setting major organizational objectives and developing comprehensive plans to achieve these objectives
  - d. the process of determining the primary direction of the firm

ANS: B REF: page 44

OBJ: 1

BLM: Key Terms

- 2. Kramer Athletic Equipment is planning the future of the organization. In this process, the firm is making decisions such as whether to maintain its current path as industry leader in the running shoe business, or branch out to include casual footwear. In addition, the company is also discussing the various needs it will have for new staff if it does choose to go in a new direction. What is Kramer Athletic Equipment doing?
  - a. strategic planning
  - b. human resources planning
  - c. applying principles of strategic human resources management
  - d. planning both its business needs and its HR needs

ANS: C

REF: page 44

OBJ: 1

BLM: Application

- 3. Organization Z is planning its future. In the process, the firm is making decisions such as what type of market it wants to be the leader in and what path to take to achieve this goal. What is Organization Z doing?
  - a. strategic planning
  - b. human resources planning
  - c. performing a Markov analysis
  - d. applying principles of strategic human resources management

ANS: A

REF: page 44

OBJ: 1

BLM: Application

- 4. Eldorado Electronics wants to move from the stagnant calculator industry into the smart phone industry. To do so, however, it would have to make significant changes to its approach to product development in order to gain an edge in this competitive industry. What is the smartest next step for Eldorado Electronics?
  - a. It should consider how its strategic plans will affect its HR needs.
  - b. It should engage in human resources planning.
  - c. It should apply principles of strategic human resources management.
  - d. It should consider how its strategic plans will affect HR needs and also how its current HR status will affect its strategic plans.

ANS: D

REF: page 44

OBJ: 1

BLM: Application

5. HR managers must be concerned with aligning HR planning and which of the following? a. the organization's strategic plan b. the organization's marketing position c. the organization's return on its human assets d. the competitive environment ANS: A REF: page 45 OBJ: 1 BLM: Key Terms | Understanding 6. Different skills groups in an organization can be classified by the degree to which they create strategic value and the degree to which they are unique, by using which of the following? a. internal environmental scanning b. a human capital architecture map c. a skills inventory d. strategic planning ANS: B REF: page 53 OBJ: 3 BLM: Key Terms 7. A human capital architecture map classifies employees according to which of the following? a. exempt and non-exempt status b. employee function and wage rate c. employee function and skill level d. strategic value and unique skills ANS: D REF: page 53 OBJ: 3 BLM: Knowledge | Understanding 8. On the entrance to Mac Pencils' factory are the words "to provide the world with high-quality and dependable pencils." This is an example of which of the following? a. mission b. strategic vision c. core values d. strategic mission ANS: A REF: page 45 OBJ: 1 BLM: Application 9. Which of the following best describes the skills of contract labour workers? Their skills are not directly related to company strategy. b. They have firm-specific skills directly related to company strategy. c. They have skills that are valuable but not unique. d. Their skills are available to all firms. ANS: D REF: page 56 OBJ: 3 BLM: Key Terms 10. Smith Frozen Foods performs a yearly employee survey to assess how its employees feel about safety on the job, the comfort of the working conditions, and their general level of satisfaction with their work, managers, and co-workers. Smith Frozen Foods is most likely performing which of the following? a. a job satisfaction survey b. an environmental analysis c. a cultural audit d. an engagement measure ANS: C REF: page 51 OBJ: 3 BLM: Application

11.	<ul> <li>When an organization monitors demographic and labour market trends as well as technological and IT changes, it is most likely performing which of the following?</li> <li>a. a competitive environment scan</li> <li>b. an environment scan</li> <li>c. a strategic plan</li> <li>d. a labour market scan</li> </ul>						
	ANS: B BLM: Key Terms	REF: p	page 46   page	47		OBJ: 2	
12.	The examination of the following?  a. environmental scale b. trend analysis  c. a cultural audit d. behavioural model	anning	es and activiti	es of a	company's wor	rkforce refers to which of the	
	ANS: C	REF: p	page 51	OBJ:	3	BLM: Key Terms	
13.	<ul> <li>a. the competition, of labour supply</li> <li>b. the competition, to external labour suppliers and external ext</li></ul>	customers he global apply he global crnal labo	s, rival firms, l landscape, ri l landscape, ri our supply	new en val firr val firr	ntrants, substitut ms, new entrant ms, new entrant	e environment in strategic planning? tes, suppliers and external s, substitutes, suppliers and s, the business context, utes, suppliers and external	
	ANS: A BLM: Understanding		oage 46   page	47		OBJ: 2	
14.	<ul> <li>What is benchmarking?</li> <li>a. the practice of identifying employees with promotion potential</li> <li>b. the practice of identifying performance differences with competing firms</li> <li>c. the process of identifying the best practices of a firm in a given area and comparing your practices to their practices</li> <li>d. the process of establishing performance standards through HRP</li> </ul>						
	ANS: C	REF: p	page 76	OBJ:	7	BLM: Key Terms	
15.	<ul> <li>Which of the following organizations is most likely to gain a sustained competitive advantage through its people?</li> <li>a. one in which employees' talent is organized, difficult to imitate, rare, and valuable.</li> <li>b. one in which employees are motivated through training initiatives, pay, and fair practices</li> <li>c. one in which employees are empowered, have promotion opportunities, and have a high morale level</li> <li>d. one in which employees are empowered, their talent is rare and valuable, and they are motivated through training</li> </ul>						
	ANS: A	REF: p	page 71	OBJ:	7	BLM: Application	

16.	<ul> <li>Which of the following best describes forecasting human resources needs?</li> <li>a. It is scientific and relatively error-free.</li> <li>b. It is difficult and should only be done on rare occasions.</li> <li>c. It should rely strictly on quantitative approaches, which utilize sophisticated analytical models.</li> <li>d. It estimates the number and type of people that are needed to meet organizational objectives.</li> </ul>						
	ANS: D	REF:	page 58	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding	
17.	Which of the following employees?  a. limited benefits  b. no job security  c. lack of training  d. no organizational		-	rtcomin	g of an organiz	cation's having to rely on part-time	
	ANS: D	REF:	pages 56-57	OBJ:	3	BLM: Understanding	
18.	<ul> <li>Manning Logistics laid off 9 employees from data-entry positions in its finance division. Two weeks later it hired 15 employees into data-entry positions in the inventory division. What mistake has the company committed?</li> <li>a. faulty human resources planning</li> <li>b. not forecasting</li> <li>c. faulty strategic planning</li> <li>d. not analyzing the internal labour force</li> </ul>						
	ANS: B	REF:	page 58	OBJ:	3	BLM: Application	
19.		and fut hart				e numbers of employees currently wn as which of the following?	
	ANS: A	REF:	page 61	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms	
20.	What is the most important information obtained from a Markov analysis?  a. human capital readiness  b. what types of employees work in each department  c. how many individuals are in each job in each department  d. what positions are going to be coming open and will require a new hire						
	ANS: D	REF:	page 61	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding	
21.	Which of the following lists current jobholders and identifies possible replacements?  a. a staffing table  b. a replacement chart  c. a trend model  d. Markov analysis						
	ANS: B	REF:	pages 61-62	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms	

22.	<ul> <li>What is the process of identifying, developing, and tracking key individuals so that they may eventually assume top-level?</li> <li>a. target forecasting</li> <li>b. predicted change</li> <li>c. succession planning</li> <li>d. replacement selection</li> </ul>						
	ANS: C	REF:	page 62	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding	
23.	Which of the following as product/service of b. the number of pacture of the control of the control of the following as the f	lemand rt-time e			int when foreca	sting demand?	
	ANS: A	REF:	page 58	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding	
24.	<ul> <li>a. Trend analysis is used to analyze the business environment and management forecasts predict labour needs.</li> <li>b. Trend analysis uses organizational indexes and management forecasts utilize statistical techniques.</li> <li>c. Trend analysis is quantitative and management forecasts are qualitative.</li> <li>d. Trend analysis has proven success and management forecasts have major shortcomings.</li> </ul>						
	ANS: C	REF:	pages 59-60	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding	
25.	<ul> <li>Kappa Technology is a firm in the high-technology sector. It needs to hire individuals with very specific knowledge and abilities, and it needs to do so quickly. Which of the following aspects of employee forecasting will be most important for this company?</li> <li>a. skills inventories</li> <li>b. staffing tables</li> <li>c. Markov analysis</li> <li>d. succession planning</li> </ul>						
	ANS: A	REF:	page 61	OBJ:	4	BLM: Application	
26.	who resign or retire? a. a hiring freeze b. a worker loan-ou c. attrition d. termination	t progra	m			rough the departure of employees	
	ANS: C	REF:	page 74	OBJ:	6	BLM: Key Terms	
27.	<ul> <li>Severance pay is usually calculated based on which of the following?</li> <li>a. the employee's years of service and salary</li> <li>b. complex formulas administered by the federal government</li> <li>c. the employee's skills and abilities</li> <li>d. the employee's education and performance</li> </ul>						
	ANS: A	REF:	page 75	OBJ:	6	BLM: Understanding	

28.	8. Which of the following is an important step in human resources planning?  a. assessing the organizational strategic plan  b. formulating strategy  c. developing global awareness  d. surveying employees						
	ANS: B	REF:	page 64	OBJ:	5	BLM: Understanding   Application	
29.	of the following?  a. the strategy for  b. the strategy im  c. the strategic an  d. the source of co	rmulation plementat nalysis pro ompetitive	process ion process cess e advantage			by providing a set of inputs into which	
	ANS: C	REF:	page 45	OBJ:	1	BLM: Key Terms   Application	
30.	Organization Y is a most likely make da. seniority b. the payroll c. what skills and d. talent	lecide who	om to lay off fi	irst base	ed on which of	at is downsizing. Organization Y will the following?	
	ANS: A	REF:	page 73	OBJ:	6	BLM: Application	
31.	<ul> <li>Which of the following best describes the core values of a company?</li> <li>a. They encompass the systematic monitoring of external opportunities.</li> <li>b. They are the basic purpose of the organization.</li> <li>c. They are the strong enduring beliefs and principles used by the company to make decisions.</li> <li>d. They provide a perspective on where the company is headed.</li> </ul>						
	ANS: C	REF:	page 46	OBJ:	1	BLM: Key Terms	
32.	What is a major rea  a. strategic plann  b. failures in cont  c. cultural incons  d. a competitive b	ing failure text analys istencies a	es sis and conflicts	do not	go well?		
	ANS: C	REF:	page 67	OBJ:	5	BLM: Key Terms	
33.	Which of the followinfluencing the orga. demand forecab. environmental c. exception repod. influence analy	anization' sting scanning rting		systema	ntic, regular mo	nitoring of major external forces	
	ANS: B	REF:	page 46	OBJ:	2	BLM: Key Terms	

34.	<ul> <li>Which of the following is the best way HR can help ensure that a strategic alliance or joint venture goes smoothly in the beginning?</li> <li>a. plan labour supply needs for both organizations</li> <li>b. systematically monitor employee morale for both organizations</li> <li>c. teach employees about the other organization</li> <li>d. assess the compatibility of the two organizational cultures</li> </ul>							
	ANS: D	REF: page	68 OBJ:	5	BLM: Understanding			
35.	workforce? a. environmental b. trend analysis c. a cultural audit d. behavioural me	scanning todelling			tudes and activities of a company's			
	ANS: C	REF: page	51 OBJ:	3	BLM: Key Terms			
36.	6. What are the three Cs?  a. culture, capabilities, and composition  b. culture, clarity, and composure  c. culture, competition, and clarity  d. culture, creativity, and composition							
	ANS: A	REF: page	50 OBJ:	3	BLM: Key Terms			
37.	<ul> <li>Which of the following terms refers to integrated knowledge sets within an organization that distinguish it from its competitors and deliver value to customers?</li> <li>a. individual competencies</li> <li>b. core competencies</li> <li>c. human capital</li> <li>d. organizational competencies</li> </ul>							
	ANS: B	REF: page	52 OBJ:	3	BLM: Key Terms			
38.	<ul> <li>a. Which of the following statements best describes strategic knowledge workers?</li> <li>a. They have unique skills directly linked to the company's strategy.</li> <li>b. They have firm-specific skills directly related to company strategy.</li> <li>c. They have skills that are valuable but not unique.</li> <li>d. They have skills available to all firms.</li> </ul>							
	ANS: A	REF: page	53 OBJ:	3	BLM: Key Terms   Understanding			
39.	<ul> <li>What is an important difference between small and large businesses in terms of alignment between organization and people strategies?</li> <li>a. Large businesses are constrained by existing internal processes; small business have less bureaucracy and can change faster.</li> <li>b. Large businesses have more strategy to align; small businesses keep it simple.</li> <li>c. Large businesses have more competitors; small businesses can keep a closer eye on fewer rivals.</li> <li>d. Large businesses have more overhead and constraints; small businesses are leaner and meaner.</li> <li>ANS: A REF: page 80 OBJ: 7 BLM: Understanding</li> </ul>							
		imi. puge	<i>OD</i> .	•	22 Charlemanig			

40. An organization that states that teamwork and working together are important in their strategy but gives bonuses to individuals who excel independently is an example of which of the following? a. a misalignment of functional strategy b. a misalignment of external fit c. a misalignment of internal fit d. a misalignment of strategy and HR REF: page 70 OBJ: 5 BLM: Understanding ANS: C 41. What is at the centre of the 7-S Model? a. shared values b. strategy c. style d. systems ANS: A REF: page 71 OBJ: 6 BLM: Understanding 42. Vindal Fabrics has determined that its organizational strength is being an industry leader in producing upholstery fabrics for automobiles. The company believes its weakness is its performance in Southeast Asia. It has also determined that it is missing an opportunity by not yet branching into upholstery for public transit seats. In order to complete a SWOT analysis, what piece of information does Vindal Fabrics need to figure out next? a. It needs to see that its major threat is the economic downturn of the auto industry. b. Its HR department needs to address the company's major weakness. c. It needs to perform a revenue analysis in order to see what chances it can take. d. Its HR department needs to address the company's missed opportunity. ANS: A REF: page 65 | page 66 OBJ: 5 BLM: Application 43. Which of the following statements best describes a hiring freeze? a. It is usually only successful during times of economic crisis. b. It is a workforce attrition strategy. c. It discourages competent employees. d. It leaves more talented labour for the competition. OBJ: 6 ANS: B REF: page 74 BLM: Understanding 44. Which of the following is a method for measuring a firm's strategic alignment? a. Markov analysis b. SWOT analysis c. benchmarking d. using a balanced scorecard ANS: D REF: page 77 OBJ: 7 BLM: Key Terms 45. Which of the following terms refers to an enthusiastically adopted tool for mapping a firm's strategy in order to ensure strategic alignment? a. target forecasting b. predicted focus c. balanced scorecard d. replacement selection ANS: C REF: page 77 OBJ: 7 BLM: Key Terms

## TRUE/FALSE

1.	plans to achieve those objectives.						
	ANS: F	REF:	page 44	OBJ:	1	BLM: Key Terms	
2.	The number of hour around 33 hours a v		anadians work	per wee	ek has been trer	nding downward and now hovers	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 50	OBJ:	1	BLM: Understanding	
3.	Nearly one-fifth of	the work	force is made u	up of pa	ert-time, tempo	rary, and self-employed workers.	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 49	OBJ:	1	BLM: Key Terms	
4.	Organizational core foundation for its de			nduring	beliefs and pri	inciples that a company uses as a	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 46	OBJ:	1	BLM: Understanding	
5.	Increased emphasis strategies, relocation			•	•	en organizations consider global orth.	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 44	OBJ:	1	BLM: Understanding	
6.						tegy implementation because locations to human capital, among	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 45	OBJ:	1	BLM: Understanding	
7.	In general, contract than core knowledge			and kno	owledge of less	s strategic value to the organization	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 54	OBJ:	3	BLM: Understanding	
8.	Strategic plans have focusing mainly on					or portions of the organization, ally.	
	ANS: F	REF:	page 44	OBJ:	1	BLM: Understanding	
9.	Internal fit (or align reinforcing configur		eans that HR p	ractices	are aligned wi	ith one another in a mutually	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 70	OBJ:	5	BLM: Key Terms	
10.	Environmental scan organization.	ning inv	olves the system	matic m	nonitoring of in	ternal factors influencing the	
	ANS: F	REF:	page 46	OBJ:	2	BLM: Key Terms   Understanding	

11.	Organizations such as Canadian Tire and CIBC conduct cultural audits to examine the attitudes and activities of the external workforce.						
	ANS: F	REF:	page 51	OBJ:	3	BLM: Key Terms	
12.	A cultural au	dit asks questio	ns such as "Wl	nat is th	e ethnic make-	-up of my workforce?"	
	ANS: F	REF:	pages 51-53	OBJ:	3	BLM: Understanding	
13.	A cultural au	dit asks questio	ns such as "Ho	w do er	nployees spen	d their time?"	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 51	OBJ:	3	BLM: Understanding	
14.	•	encies are integ petitors and del			•	in an organization that distinguish it	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 52	OBJ:	2	BLM: Understanding	
15.		on of advanced t less demand for	<i>- - - - - - - - - -</i>	•		l by more demand for low-skilled	
	ANS: F	REF:	page 58	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding	
16.	There are two	o approaches to	HR forecastin	g: quan	titative and qu	alitative.	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 58	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding	
17.	The mission	statement of an	organization is	s a desc	ription of the o	organization's vision and values.	
	ANS: F	REF:	page 45	OBJ:	1	BLM: Key Terms	
18.	Forecasting needs.	may be as inform	nal as having o	one pers	son familiar wi	th the organization anticipate HR	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 60	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms	
19.	Trend analys	is is a qualitativ	re approach to	labour d	lemand forecas	sting.	
	ANS: F	REF:	page 59	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms	
20.	Trend analys	is relies on a sir	ngle business fa	actor.			
	ANS: T	REF:	page 59	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms	
21.	Management	forecasts are qu	uantitative mea	sureme	ents of future e	mployment needs.	
	ANS: F	REF:	page 60	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding	
22.	The Delphi to levels.	echnique works	best in organiz	zations	where dynami	c technological changes affect staffing	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 60	OBJ:	2	BLM: Understanding   Application	

23.	Staffing tables provide data on external labour supply sources.						
	ANS: F	REF:	page 61	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding	
24.	Markov analysis is a	system	atic monitoring	of the	major external	forces influencing an organization.	
	ANS: F	REF:	page 61	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms	
25.	Markov analysis focu compensation, and jo			employ	ees in particula	r jobs and their skill levels,	
	ANS: F	REF:	page 61	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding	
26.	Succession planning may eventually assur	_			developing, and	tracking key individuals so that they	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 62	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms	
27.	National and regiona	l unem <sub>l</sub>	ployment rates	are ofte	n considered a	general barometer of labour supply.	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 50	OBJ:	2	BLM: Key Terms	
28.	Human Resources Do and demand for labor		nent Canada (H	IRSDC)	) analyzes labou	ur markets to determine the supply	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 50	OBJ:	2	BLM: Key Terms	
29.	Attrition and early re	tiremen	nt are means for	organi	zations to reduc	ce excess labour.	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 72	OBJ:	6	BLM: Understanding   Application	
30.	The stages of HR act solidification and ass			mergei	are (1) precom	abination, (2) combination, and (3)	
	ANS: T	REF:	pages 67-68	OBJ:	5	BLM: Understanding   Application	
31.	Decisions about emp	loyee la	ayoffs are usual	ly base	d on seniority a	nd/or performance.	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 73	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms	
32.	A disadvantage of ov rewards and security					nt employees receive the same	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 73	OBJ:	6	BLM: Understanding	
33.	Attrition is the fastes	t way to	o achieve work	force re	duction.		
	ANS: F	REF:	page 74	OBJ:	6	BLM: Understanding	
34.	Through human reso considerations and su			zations	strive for a proj	per balance between demand	
	ANS: T	REF:	page 72	OBJ:	4	BLM: Understanding   Application	

	reduced shifts, transfers to related companies, and so on.					
	ANS: T	REF:	page 73	OBJ:	6	BLM: Understanding
36.	The use of part-time	employ	ees creates a pr	roblem	of labour costs	at fast food restaurants.
	ANS: F	REF:	page 69	OBJ:	5	BLM: Understanding
37.	Over time, organizat	ions ma	y try to reduce	their w	orkforce by rel	ying on attrition.
	ANS: F	REF:	page 74	OBJ:	6	BLM: Understanding
38.	Severance pay is a lu	ımp-sur	n payment give	n to ter	minated emplo	yees.
	ANS: T	REF:	page 75	OBJ:	6	BLM: Key Terms
39.	Benchmarking is the other companies.	proces	s of comparing	the org	anization's prod	cesses and practices with those of
	ANS: T	REF:	page 76	OBJ:	5	BLM: Understanding
40.	Human resources pla a strategic plan.	anning (	(HRP) is the co	nductin	g of recruitmen	t and selection methods according to
	ANS: F	REF:	page 44	OBJ:	1	BLM: Key Terms
41.	Economic factors in	environ	mental scannin	ng inclu	de general and	global conditions.
	ANS: T	REF:	pages 46-47	OBJ:	2	BLM: Key Terms
42.	External supply of la	abour is	central to strate	egic pla	nning.	
	ANS: F	REF:	page 50	OBJ:	2	BLM: Application   Understanding
43.	Internal analysis pro resources.	vides st	rategic decision	n maker	rs with an inven	tory of organizational skills and
	ANS: T	REF:	page 50	OBJ:	3	BLM: Key Terms   Understanding
44.	A cultural audit may	examin	ne how people a	ire emp	owered.	
	ANS: T	REF:	pages 51-52	OBJ:	3	BLM: Key Terms   Application
45.	Core competencies p service delivery.	provide	a long-term bas	sis for to	echnological in	novation, product development, and
	ANS: T	REF:	page 52	OBJ:	3	BLM: Key Terms
46.	Replacement charts occurs.	are listii	ngs of current j	obholde	ers who are pote	ential replacements if an opening
	ANS: T	REF:	page 62	OBJ:	4	BLM: Key Terms

47. SWOT analysis includes the strengths only for strategy formulation purposes.

ANS: F

REF: page 65

OBJ: 4

BLM: Key Terms

48. In unionized firms, layoffs are typically based on performance.

ANS: F

REF: page 73

OBJ: 6

BLM: Key Terms | Understanding

49. Value creation is what the firm adds to a product or service by virtue of making it; it's the amount of benefits provided by the product or service once the costs of making it are subtracted.

ANS: T

REF: page 68

OBJ: 6

BLM: Understanding

## **ESSAY**

1. Describe how human resources planning is integrated with strategic planning.

### ANS:

Through strategic planning, organizations set major objectives and develop plans to achieve those objectives. HRP provides a set of inputs that determine what is or is likely to be possible, given the number of available people, training needs, and other people-related issues. HR strategies and action plans are developed according to the overall strategic goals that evolve from the strategy formulation process. During the strategy implementation phase, HRP must make resource allocation decisions, and implement policy, practices, and training that support the decisions and outcomes of the strategic planning process.

REF: pages 44-46 OBJ: 1

BLM: Understanding

2. Describe the three key elements of the HRP model.

### ANS:

The three key elements in the HR planning process are (1) forecasting demand, (2) forecasting supply, and (3) balancing supply and demand considerations.

Forecasting demand involves estimating in advance the number and type of people needed to meet organizational objectives. It may involve a quantitative approach using statistical analysis and mathematical models or a qualitative approach focusing on employee performance and promotability. Forecasting supply determines if there are sufficient numbers and types of employees available to staff anticipated openings. Sources of supply can be external or internal.

HR planning should strive for a proper balance between the emphasis placed on demand considerations and that placed on supply considerations. Demand considerations are based on the forecast of trends in business activity. Supply considerations involve the determination of where and how candidates with the required qualifications are to be found to fill vacancies.

REF: page 57 OBJ: 4

BLM: Key Terms

3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using attrition as a downsizing strategy?

### ANS:

The primary advantage of using attrition (combined with a hiring freeze) is the ability to control and predict compensation expenses that go beyond the salaries and benefits redeemed from departing employees. When the organization does not replace departing employees, the reduction in recruitment, orientation and training, office space costs, and so forth, can result in substantial savings. However, the disadvantages of attrition are significant. Current employees may be overburdened with the work of departing employees; their skills may not match the skill sets of the departed workers; and no new skills or ideas are infiltrating the organization. In addition, the organization is unable to control who leaves and who stays, which may result in valuable employees leaving, while less needed ones remain. Attrition also poses the disadvantage of taking a long time, compared to processes that can be accomplished rapidly, such as layoffs.

REF: page 74 OBJ: 6 BLM: Understanding

4. Identify and briefly describe three strategies that managers frequently use to cope with a labour shortage.

## ANS:

(1) Overtime (i.e., asking employees to work extra hours) is a strategy used by most firms during peak periods. (2) Increasingly, organizations are using part-time employees to increase flexibility in scheduling and reducing payroll costs. Many organizations use part-time or contract employees to cover the absences of regular, full-time employees. (3) In addition, nine out of ten Canadian companies —both large and small—make some use of temporary employees. "Temps" are typically used for short-term assignments, vacation fill-ins, for peak work periods, or to cover for employees taking sick leave, pregnancy leave, and so forth.

REF: page 72 OBJ: 6 BLM: Understanding