



FRAMEWORK FOR PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



LEARNING OUTCOMES

After studying this chapter, you will be able to:

- ❑ Understand the meaning and significance of Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements;
- ❑ Learn objectives of Financial Statements;
- ❑ Understand qualitative characteristics of Financial Statements;
- ❑ Comprehend recognition and measurement of elements of Financial Statements;
- ❑ Know concepts of capital, capital maintenance and determination of profit.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

The International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) issued a conceptual framework to serve as a basis for accounting standards. The Accounting Standards Board (ASB) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has issued a similar framework in July 2000. This framework provides the fundamental basis for development of new standards as also for review of existing standards. The framework sets out the concepts underlying the preparation and presentation of general-purpose financial statements prepared by enterprises for external users. This framework explains components of financial statements, users of financial statements, qualitative characteristics of financial statements and elements of financial statements. The framework also explains concepts of capital, capital maintenance and determination of profit.

 **1. INTRODUCTION**

The development of accounting standards or any other accounting guidelines need a foundation of underlying principles. (ASB) of ICAI issued a framework in July, 2000 which provides the fundamental basis for development of new standards as also for review of existing standards. The principal areas covered by the framework are as follows:

- (a) Components of financial statements;
- (b) Objectives of financial statements;
- (c) Assumptions underlying financial statements;
- (d) Qualitative characteristics of financial statements;
- (e) Elements of financial statements;
- (f) Criteria for recognition of elements in financial statements;
- (g) Principles of measurement of financial elements;
- (h) Concepts of Capital and Capital Maintenance.

 **2. PURPOSE OF THE FRAMEWORK**

The framework sets out the concepts underlying the preparation and presentation of general-purpose financial statements prepared by enterprises for external users. The main purpose of the framework is to assist:

- (a) Enterprises in preparation of their financial statements in compliance with Accounting Standards and in dealing with the topics not yet covered by any Accounting Standard;

- (b) ASB in its task of development and review of Accounting Standards;
- (c) ASB in promoting harmonisation of regulations, Accounting Standards and procedures relating to the preparation and presentation of financial statements by providing a basis for reducing the number of alternative accounting treatments permitted by Accounting Standards;
- (d) Auditors in forming an opinion as to whether financial statements conform to the Accounting Standards;
- (e) Users in interpretation of financial statements;
- (f) Those who are interested in the work of ASB with information about its information to the formulation of Accounting Standards.

3. STATUS AND SCOPE OF THE FRAMEWORK

The framework applies to general-purpose financial statements (hereafter referred to as 'financial statements' usually prepared annually for external users, by all commercial, industrial and business enterprises, whether in public or private sector. The special purpose financial reports, for example computations prepared for tax purposes are outside the scope of the framework. Nevertheless, the framework may be applied in preparation of such reports, to the extent not inconsistent with their requirements.

Nothing in the framework overrides any specific Accounting Standard. In case of conflict between an Accounting Standard and the framework, the requirements of the Accounting Standard will prevail over those of the framework.

4. COMPONENTS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A complete set of financial statements normally consists of a Balance Sheet, a Statement of Profit and Loss and a Cash Flow Statement together with notes, statements and other explanatory materials that form integral parts of the financial statements.

All parts of financial statements are interrelated because they reflect different aspects of same transactions or other events. Although each statement provides information that is different from each other, none in isolation is likely to serve any single purpose nor can anyone provide all information needed by a user. The major information contents of different components of financial statements are explained as below:

Balance Sheet portrays value of economic resources controlled by an enterprise. It also provides information about liquidity and solvency of an enterprise which is useful in predicting the ability of the enterprise to meet its financial commitments as they fall due.

Statement of Profit and Loss presents the result of operations of an enterprise for an accounting period, i.e., it depicts the performance of an enterprise, in particular its profitability.

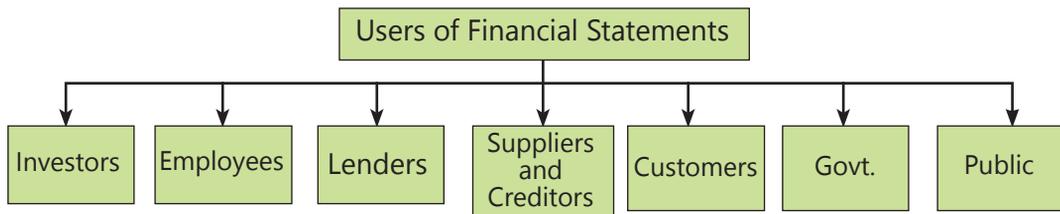
Cash Flow Statement shows the way an enterprise has generated cash and the way they have been used in an accounting period and helps in evaluating the investing, financing and operating activities during the reporting period.

Notes and other statements present supplementary information explaining different items of financial statements. For example, they may contain additional information that is relevant to the needs of users about the items in the balance sheet and statement of profit and loss. They include various other disclosures such as disclosure of accounting policies, segment reporting, related party disclosures, earnings per share, etc.

5. OBJECTIVES AND USERS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The objective of financial statements is to provide information about the financial position, performance and cash flows of an enterprise that is useful to a wide range of users.

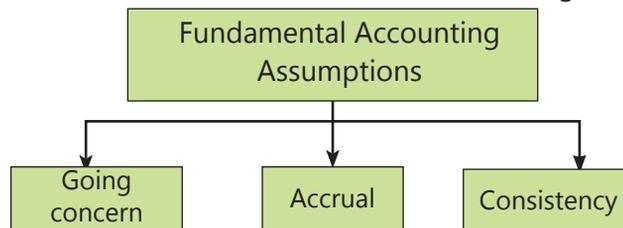
The framework identifies seven broad groups of users of financial statements.



All users of financial statements expect the statements to provide useful information needed to make economic decisions. The financial statements provide information to suit the common needs of most users. However, they cannot and do not intend to provide all information that may be needed, e.g. they do not provide non-financial data even if they may be relevant for making decisions.

6. FUNDAMENTAL ACCOUNTING ASSUMPTIONS

As per the framework, there are three fundamental accounting assumptions:



These are assumptions, i.e., the users of financial statements believes that the same has been considered while preparing the financial statements. That is why, as long as financial statements are prepared in accordance with these assumptions, no separate disclosure in financial statements would be necessary.

If nothing has been written about the fundamental accounting assumption in the financial statements then it is assumed that they have already been followed in their preparation of financial statements.

However, if any of the above mentioned fundamental accounting assumption is not followed then this fact should be specifically disclosed.

Let us discuss these assumptions in detail.

(a) Going Concern: Financial statements are normally prepared on the assumption that an enterprise will continue in operation in the foreseeable future and neither there is an intention, nor there is a need to materially curtail the scale of operations.

Financial statements prepared on going concern basis recognise among other things the need for sufficient retention of profit to replace assets consumed in operation and for making adequate provision for settlement of its liabilities. If any financial statement is prepared on a different basis, e.g. when assets of an enterprise are stated at net realisable values in its financial statements, the basis used should be disclosed.

Example 1

Balance sheet of a trader on 31st March, 20X1 is given below:

Liabilities	₹	Assets	₹
Capital	60,000	Fixed Assets	65,000
Profit and Loss Account	25,000	Stock	30,000
10% Loan	35,000	Trade receivables	20,000
Trade payables	10,000	Deferred costs	10,000
		Bank	5,000
	1,30,000		1,30,000

Additional information:

- The remaining life of fixed assets is 5 years. The pattern of use of the asset is even. The net realisable value of fixed assets on 31.03.X2 was ₹ 60,000.
- The trader's purchases and sales in 20X1-X2 amounted to ₹ 4 lakh and ₹ 4.5 lakh respectively.
- The cost and net realisable value of stock on 31.03.X2 were ₹ 32,000 and ₹ 40,000 respectively.
- Expenses for the year amounted to ₹ 14,900.
- Deferred cost is amortised equally over 4 years.
- Debtors on 31.03.X2 is ₹ 25,000, of which ₹ 2,000 is doubtful. Collection of another ₹ 4,000 depends on successful re-installation of certain product supplied to the customer.

- (g) Closing trade payable is ₹ 12,000, which is likely to be settled at 5% discount.
 (h) Cash balance on 31.03.X2 is ₹ 37,100.
 (i) There is an early repayment penalty for the loan ₹ 2,500.

The Profit and Loss Accounts and Balance Sheets of the trader are shown below in two cases (i) assuming going concern (ii) not assuming going concern.

Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31st March, 20X2

	Case (i) ₹	Case (ii) ₹		Case (i) ₹	Case (ii) ₹
To Opening Stock	30,000	30,000	By Sales	4,50,000	4,50,000
To Purchases	4,00,000	4,00,000	By Closing Stock	32,000	40,000
To Expenses	14,900	14,900	By Trade payables	–	600
To Depreciation	13,000	5,000			
To Provision for doubtful debts	2,000	6,000			
To Deferred cost	2,500	10,000			
To Loan penalty		2,500			
To Net Profit (b.f.)	19,600	22,200			
	4,82,000	4,90,600		4,82,000	4,90,600

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 20X2

Liabilities	Case (i) ₹	Case (ii) ₹	Assets	Case (i) ₹	Case (ii) ₹
Capital	60,000	60,000	Fixed Assets	52,000	60,000
Profit & Loss A/c	44,600	47,200	Stock	32,000	40,000
10% Loan	35,000	37,500	Trade receivables (less provision)	23,000	19,000
Trade payables	12,000	11,400	Deferred costs	7,500	Nil
			Bank	37,100	37,100
	1,51,600	1,56,100		1,51,600	1,56,100

(b) Accrual Basis : Under this basis of accounting, transactions are recognised as soon as they occur, whether or not cash or cash equivalent is actually received or paid. Accrual basis ensures better matching between revenue and cost and profit/ loss obtained on this basis reflects activities of the enterprise during an accounting period, rather than cash flows generated by it. Hence, accrual basis is a more logical approach for profit determination compared to cash basis of accounting.

Accrual basis exposes an enterprise to the risk of recognising an income before actual receipt. The accrual basis can therefore be misused as a tool to overstate the divisible profits and take dividend decisions based on such overstated profits which may lead to erosion of capital. For this reason, Accounting Standards require that no revenue should be recognised unless the amount of consideration and actual realisation of the consideration is reasonably certain. Despite the possibility of distribution of profit not actually earned, accrual basis of accounting is generally followed because of its logical superiority over cash basis of accounting. Section 128(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 makes it mandatory for companies to maintain accounts on accrual basis only. It is not necessary to expressly state that accrual basis of accounting has been followed in preparation of a financial statement. In case, any income/ expense is recognised on cash basis, the fact should be stated.

Example 2

- (a) A trader purchased article A on credit in period 1 for ₹ 50,000.
 (b) He also purchased article B in period 1 for ₹ 2,000 cash.
 (c) The trader sold article A in period 1 for ₹ 60,000 in cash.
 (d) He also sold article B in period 1 for ₹ 2,500 on credit.

Profit and Loss Account of the trader by two basis of accounting are shown below. A look at the cash basis Profit and Loss Account will convince any reader of the irrationality of cash basis of accounting.

Cash basis of accounting

Cash purchase of article B and cash sale of article A is recognised in period 1 while purchase of article A on payment and sale of article B on receipt is recognised in period 2.

Profit and Loss Account

		₹			₹
Period 1	To Purchase	2,000	Period 1	By Sale	60,000
	To Net Profit	58,000			
		60,000			60,000
Period 2	To Purchase	50,000	Period 2	By Sale	2,500
				By Net Loss	47,500
		50,000			50,000

Accrual basis of accounting

Credit purchase of article A and cash purchase of article B and cash sale of article A and credit sale of article B is recognised in period 1 only.

Profit and Loss Account

		₹			₹	
Period 1	To Purchase	52,000	Period 1	By Sale	62,500	
	To Net Profit	10,500				
		62,500				62,500

(c) **Consistency** : The principle of consistency refers to the practice of using same accounting policies for similar transactions in all accounting periods. The consistency improves comparability of financial statements through time. An accounting policy can be changed if the change is required

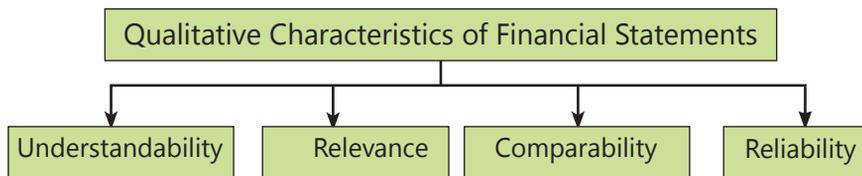
(i) by a statute or

(ii) by an Accounting Standard or

(iii) for more appropriate presentation of financial statements.

7. QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS

The qualitative characteristics are attributes that improve the usefulness of information provided in financial statements. The framework suggests that the financial statements should observe and maintain the following four qualitative characteristics as far as possible within limits of reasonable cost/ benefit.



These attributes can be explained as:

1. **Understandability:** The financial statements should present information in a manner as to be readily understandable by the users with reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities and accounting. It is not right to think that more information one discloses the better it is. A mass of irrelevant information creates confusion and can be even more harmful than non-disclosure.
2. **Relevance:** The financial statements should contain relevant information only. Information, which is likely to influence the economic decisions by the users, is said to be relevant. Such information may help the users to evaluate past, present or future events or may help in confirming or correcting past evaluations. The relevance of a piece of information should be judged by its materiality. A piece of information is said to be material if its misstatement (i.e., omission or erroneous statement) can influence economic decisions of a user.

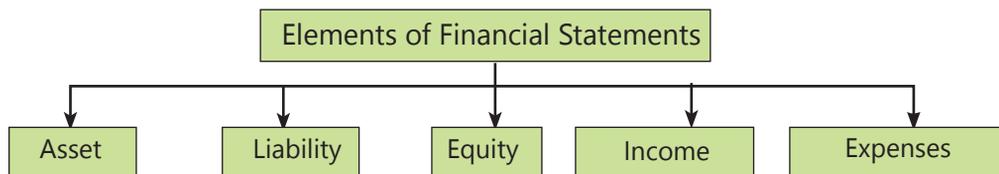
3. **Reliability:** To be useful, the information must be reliable; that is to say, they must be free from material error and bias. The information provided are not likely to be reliable unless:
- Transactions and events reported are faithfully represented.
 - Transactions and events are reported in terms of their substance and economic reality not merely on the basis of their legal form. This principle is called the principle of 'substance over form'.
 - The reporting of transactions and events are neutral, i.e. free from bias.
 - Prudence is exercised in reporting uncertain outcome of transactions or events.
 - The information in financial statements must be complete.
4. **Comparability:** Comparison of financial statements is one of the most frequently used and most effective tools of financial analysis. The financial statements should permit both inter-firm and intra-firm comparison. One essential requirement of comparability is disclosure of financial effect of change in accounting policies.

8. TRUE AND FAIR VIEW

Financial statements are required to show a true and fair view of the performance, financial position and cash flows of an enterprise. The framework does not deal directly with this concept of true and fair view, yet application of the principal qualitative characteristics and appropriate accounting standards normally results in financial statements portraying true and fair view of information about an enterprise.

9. ELEMENTS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The framework classifies items of financial statements in five broad groups depending on their economic characteristics.



Gains and losses differ from income and expenses in the sense that they may or may not arise in the ordinary course of business. Except for the way they arise, economic characteristics of gains are same as income and those of losses are same as expenses. For these reasons, gains and losses are not recognised as separate elements of financial statements.

An item of financial element (asset, liability, equity, expense or income) is recognised in financial statements if both the following criteria are met:

- (a) It is probable that any future economic benefit associated with the item will flow to or from the enterprise. Concept of probability is used to ascertain the degree of uncertainty associated with the flow of economic benefits, and
- (b) It has a cost or value that can be measured reliably.

In assessing whether an item of financial element meets the recognition criteria regard should be given to the materiality consideration. An item is material if misstatement or omission of the item can influence economic decision of the user. For example, an expense even if small, should be recognised if it is not tax-deductible, because one of the users of the financial statements is the taxation authority.

The recognition criteria of financial elements are inter-related. For example recognition of an asset implies that corresponding liability, income or equity should also be recognised. In other words, recognition is possible only when both of the related financial elements satisfy the specified recognition criteria. For example, in case of credit sale, the income (i.e. Sales) and asset (i.e. Debtors) can be recognised if on the basis of evidence available on balance sheet date, it is probable that the customer will not return the goods and cash will actually be realised.

Let us discuss each element of financial statement in detail.

1. **Asset:** An asset is a resource controlled by the enterprise as a result of past events from which future economic benefits are expected to flow to the enterprise. The following points must be considered while recognising an asset:
 - (a) The resource regarded as an asset, need not have a physical substance. The resource may represent a right generating future economic benefit, e.g. patents, copyrights, debtors and bills receivable. An asset without physical substance can be either intangible asset, e.g. patents and copyrights or monetary assets, e.g. debtors and bills receivable. The monetary assets are money held and assets to be received in fixed or determinable amounts of money.
 - (b) An asset is a resource controlled by the enterprise. This means it is possible to recognise a resource not owned but controlled by the enterprise as an asset, i.e., legal ownership may or may not vest with the enterprise. Such is the case of financial lease, where lessee recognises the asset taken on lease, even if ownership lies with the lessor. Likewise, the lessor does not recognise the asset given on finance lease as asset in his books, because despite of ownership, he does not control the asset.
 - (c) A resource cannot be recognised as an asset if the control is not sufficient. For this reason specific management or technical talent of an employee cannot be recognised because of insufficient control. When the control over a resource is protected by a legal right, e.g. copyright, the resource can be recognised as an asset.

- (d) To be considered as an asset, it must be probable that the resource generates future economic benefit. If the economic benefit from a resource is expected to expire within the current accounting period, it is not an asset. For example, economic benefit, i.e. profit on sale, from machinery purchased by an enterprise who deals in such kind of machinery is expected to expire within the current accounting period. Such purchase of machinery is therefore booked as an expense rather than capitalised in the machinery account. However, if the articles purchased by a dealer remain unsold at the end of accounting period, the unsold items are recognised as assets, i.e. closing stock, because the sale of the article and resultant economic benefit, i.e. profit is expected to be earned in the next accounting period.
 - (e) To be considered as an asset, the resource must have a cost or value that can be measured reliably.
 - (f) When flow of economic benefit to the enterprise beyond the current accounting period is considered improbable, the expenditure incurred is recognised as an expense rather than as an asset.
2. **Liability:** A liability is a present obligation of the enterprise arising from past events, the settlement of which is expected to result in an outflow of a resource embodying economic benefits. The following points may be noted:
- (a) A liability is a present obligation¹, i.e. an obligation the existence of which, based on the evidence available on the balance sheet date is considered probable. For example, an enterprise may have to pay compensation if it loses a damage suit filed against it. The damage suit is pending on the balance sheet date. The enterprise should recognise a liability for damages payable by a charge against profit if it is probable that the enterprise will lose the suit and if the amount of damages payable can be ascertained with reasonable accuracy. The enterprise should create a provision for damages payable by charge against profit, if probability of losing the suit is more than not losing it and if the amount of damages payable can be ascertained with reasonable accuracy. In other cases, the company reports the damages payable as 'contingent liability', which does not meet the definition of liability. AS 29 defines provision as a liability, which can be measured only by using a substantial degree of estimation.
 - (b) It may be noted that certain provisions, e.g. provisions for doubtful debts, depreciation and impairment losses, represent diminution in value of assets rather than obligations. These provisions are outside the scope of AS 29 and hence should not be considered as liability.

¹ Present obligation may be legally enforceable as a consequence of a binding contract or statutory requirement or they may arise from normal business practice, custom and a desire to maintain good business relations or act in an equitable manner.

- (c) A liability is recognised only when outflow of economic resources in settlement of a present obligation can be anticipated and the value of outflow can be reliably measured. Otherwise, the liability is not recognised. For example, liability cannot arise on account of future commitment. A decision by the management of an enterprise to acquire assets in the future does not, of itself, give rise to a present obligation. An obligation normally arises only when the asset is delivered or the enterprise enters into an irrevocable agreement to acquire the asset.

Example 3

A Ltd. has entered into a binding agreement with P Ltd. to buy a custom-made machine ₹ 40,000. At the end of 20X1-X2, before delivery of the machine, A Ltd. had to change its method of production. The new method will not require the machine ordered and it will be scrapped after delivery. The expected scrap value is nil.

A liability is recognised when outflow of economic resources in settlement of a present obligation can be anticipated and the value of outflow can be reliably measured. In the given case, A Ltd. should recognise a liability of ₹ 40,000 to P Ltd.

When flow of economic benefit to the enterprise beyond the current accounting period is considered improbable, the expenditure incurred is recognised as an expense rather than as an asset. In the present case, flow of future economic benefit from the machine to the enterprise is improbable. The entire amount of purchase price of the machine should be recognised as an expense. The accounting entry is suggested below:

		₹	₹
<i>Profit and Loss Account</i>	<i>Dr.</i>	<i>40,000</i>	
<i>(Loss due to change in production method)</i>			
<i>To P Ltd.</i>			<i>40,000</i>

3. Equity: Equity is defined as residual interest in the assets of an enterprise after deducting all its liabilities. It is important to avoid mixing up liabilities with equity. Equity is the excess of aggregate assets of an enterprise over its aggregate liabilities. In other words, equity represents owners' claim consisting of items like capital and reserves, which are clearly distinct from liabilities, i.e. claims of parties other than owners. The value of equity may change either through contribution from / distribution to equity participants or due to income earned / expenses incurred.

4. Income: Income is increase in economic benefits during the accounting period in the form of inflows or enhancement of assets or decreases in liabilities that result in increase in equity other than those relating to contributions from equity participants. The definition of income encompasses revenue and gains. Revenue is an income that arises in the ordinary course of activities of the enterprise, e.g. sales by a trader. Gains are income, which may or may not arise in the ordinary course of activity of the enterprise, e.g. profit on disposal of fixed assets. Gains are showed separately in the

statement of profit and loss because this knowledge is useful in assessing performance of the enterprise.

Income earned is always associated with either increase of asset or reduction of liability. This means, no income can be recognised unless the corresponding increase of asset or decrease of liability can be recognised. For example, a bank does not recognise interest earned on non-performing assets because the corresponding asset (increase in advances) cannot be recognised, as flow of economic benefit to the bank beyond current accounting period is not probable. Thus

Balance sheet of an enterprise can be written in form of:

$$A - L = E.$$

Where:

A = Aggregate value of asset

L = Aggregate value of liabilities

E = Aggregate value of equity

Example 4

Suppose at the beginning of an accounting period, aggregate values of assets, liabilities and equity of a trader are ₹ 5 lakh, ₹ 2 lakh and ₹ 3 lakh respectively.

Also suppose that the trader had the following transactions during the accounting period.

(a) Introduced capital ₹ 20,000.

(b) Earned income from investment ₹ 8,000.

(c) A liability of ₹ 31,000 was finally settled on payment of ₹ 30,000.

Balance sheets of the trader after each transaction are shown below:

Transactions	Assets ₹ lakh	–	Liabilities ₹ lakh	=	Equity ₹ lakh
Opening	5.00	–	2.00	=	3.00
(a) Capital introduced	5.20	–	2.00	=	3.20
(b) Income from investments	5.28	–	2.00	=	3.28
(c) Settlement of liability	4.98	–	1.69	=	3.29

This example given explains the definition of income. The equity increased by ₹ 29,000 during the accounting period, due to (i) Capital introduction ₹ 20,000 and (ii) Income earned ₹ 9,000 (Income from investment + Discount earned). Incomes are therefore increases in equity without introduction of capital.

Also note that income earned is accompanied by either increase of asset (Cash received as investment income) or by decrease of liability (Discount earned).

5. Expense : An expense is decrease in economic benefits during the accounting period in the form of outflows or depletions of assets or incurrance of liabilities that result in decrease in equity other than those relating to distributions to equity participants. The definition of expenses encompasses expenses that arise in the ordinary course of activities of the enterprise, e.g. wages paid. Losses may or may not arise in the ordinary course of activity of the enterprise, e.g. loss on disposal of fixed assets. Losses are separately showed in the statement of profit and loss because this knowledge is useful in assessing performance of the enterprise.

Expenses are always incurred simultaneously with either reduction of asset or increase of liability. Thus, expenses are recognised when the corresponding decrease of asset or increase of liability are recognised by application of the recognition criteria stated above. Expenses are recognised in Profit & Loss A/c by matching them with the revenue generated. However, application of matching concept should not result in recognition of an item as asset (or liability), which does not meet the definition of asset or liability as the case may be.

Where economic benefits are expected to arise over several accounting periods, expenses are recognised in the profit and loss statement on the basis of systematic and rational allocation procedures. The obvious example is that of depreciation.

An expense is recognised immediately in the profit and loss statement when it does not meet or ceases to meet the definition of asset or when no future economic benefit is expected. An expense is also recognised in the profit and loss statement when a liability is incurred without recognition of an asset, as is the case when a liability under a product warranty arises.

Example 5

Continuing with the example 4 given above, suppose the trader had the following further transactions during the period:

- (a) Wages paid ₹ 2,000.
- (b) Rent outstanding ₹ 1,000.
- (c) Drawings ₹ 4,000.

Balance sheets of the trader after each transaction are shown below:

Transactions	Assets		Liabilities		Equity
	₹ lakh	–	₹ lakh	=	₹ lakh
Opening	5.00	–	2.00	=	3.00
(a) Capital introduced	5.20	–	2.00	=	3.20
(b) Income from investments	5.28	–	2.00	=	3.28
(c) Settlement of liability	4.98	–	1.69	=	3.29
(d) Wages paid	4.96	–	1.69	=	3.27
(e) Rent Outstanding	4.96	–	1.70	=	3.26
(f) Drawings	4.92	–	1.70	=	3.22

The example given above explains the definition of expense. The equity decreased by ₹ 7,000 from ₹ 3.29 lakh to ₹ 3.22 lakh due to (i) Drawings ₹ 4,000 and (ii) Expenses incurred ₹ 3,000 (Wages paid + Rent).

Expenses are therefore decreases in equity without drawings. Also note that expenses incurred is accompanied by either decrease of asset (Cash paid for wages) or by increase in liability (Rent outstanding).

Note: The points discussed above leads us to the following relationships:

Closing equity (CE) = Closing Assets (CA) – Closing Liabilities (CL)

Opening Equity (OE) = Opening Assets (OA) – Opening Liabilities (OL)

Capital Introduced = C

Drawings = D

Income = I

Expenses = E

$$CE = OE + C + (I - E) - D$$

Or $CE = OE + C + Profit - D$

Or $Profit = CE - OE - C + D$

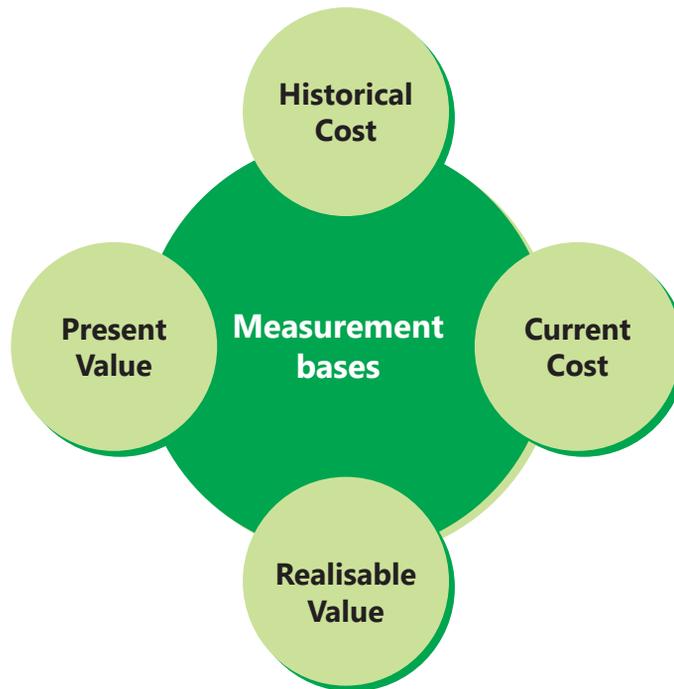
Or $Profit = (CA - CL) - (OA - OL) - C + D$

From above, one can clearly see that profit depends on values of assets and liabilities. Since historical costs are mostly used for valuation, the reported profits are mostly based on historical cost conventions. The framework recognises other methods of valuation of assets and liabilities. The point to note is that reported figures of profit change with the changes in the valuation basis. Conceptually, this is the foundation of idea of Capital Maintenance.



10. MEASUREMENT OF ELEMENTS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Measurement is the process of determining money value at which an element can be recognised in the balance sheet or statement of profit and loss. The framework recognises four alternative measurement bases for the purpose. These bases relate explicitly to the valuation of assets and liabilities. The valuation of income or expenses, i.e. profit is implied, by the value of change in assets and liabilities.



In preparation of financial statements, all or any of the measurement basis can be used in varying combinations to assign money values to financial items, subject to the requirement under the Accounting standards. However, it may be noted, that Accounting Standards largely uses the 'historical cost' for the purpose of preparation of financial statements though for some items, use of other value is permitted, e.g., inventory is recorded at historical costs on its acquisition, however, at year end, it is valued at lower of costs and net realisable value.

A brief explanation of each measurement basis is as follows:

1. Historical Cost : Historical cost means acquisition price. For example, the businessman paid ₹ 7,00,000 to purchase the machine, its acquisition price including installation charges is ₹ 8,00,000. The historical cost of machine would be ₹ 8,00,000.

According to this, assets are recorded at an amount of cash or cash equivalent paid or the fair value of the asset at the time of acquisition. Liabilities are recorded at the

amount of proceeds received in exchange for the obligation. In some circumstances a liability is recorded at the amount of cash or cash equivalent expected to be paid to satisfy it in the normal course of business.

When Mr. X, a businessman, takes ₹ 5,00,000 loan from a bank @ 10% interest p.a., it is to be recorded at the amount of proceeds received in exchange for the obligation. Here the obligation is the repayment of loan as well as payment of interest at an agreed rate i.e. 10%. Proceeds received are ₹ 5,00,000 - it is the historical cost of the transaction. Take another case regarding payment of income tax liability. You know that every individual has to pay income tax on his income if it exceeds certain minimum limit. But the income tax liability is not settled immediately when one earns his income. The income tax authority settles it some time later, which is technically called assessment year. Then how does he record this liability? As per historical cost basis, it is to be recorded at an amount expected to be paid to discharge the liability.

Example 6

Mr. X purchased a machine on 1st January, 20X1 at ₹ 7,00,000. As per historical cost basis, he has to record it at ₹ 7,00,000 i.e. the acquisition price. As on 1.1.20X6, Mr. X found that it would cost ₹ 25,00,000 to purchase that machine. Mr. X also took loan from a bank as on 20X1 ₹ 5,00,000 @ 18% p.a repayable at the end of 15th year together with interest.

As per historical cost, the liability is recorded at ₹ 5,00,000 at the amount or proceeds received in exchange for obligation and asset is recorded at ₹ 7,00,000.

2. Current Cost : Current cost gives an alternative measurement basis. Assets are carried out at the amount of cash or cash equivalent that would have to be paid if the same or an equivalent asset was acquired currently. Liabilities are carried at the undiscounted amount of cash or cash equivalents that would be required to settle the obligation currently.

Example 7

A machine was acquired for \$ 10,000 on deferred payment basis. The rate of exchange on the date of acquisition was ₹ 49/\$. The payments are to be made in 5 equal annual instalments together with 10% interest per year. The current market value of similar machine in India is ₹ 5 lakhs.

Current cost of the machine = Current market price = ₹ 5,00,000.

By historical cost convention, the machine would have been recorded at ₹ 4,90,000.

To settle the deferred payment on current date one must buy dollars at ₹ 49/\$. The liability is therefore recognised at ₹ 4,90,000 (\$ 10,000 × ₹ 49). Note that the amount of liability recognised is not the present value of future payments. This is because, in current cost convention, liabilities are recognised at undiscounted amount.

3. Realisable (Settlement) Value: For assets, this is the amount of cash or cash equivalents currently realisable on sale of the asset in an orderly disposal. For liabilities, this is the undiscounted amount of cash or cash equivalents expected to be paid on settlement of liability in the normal course of business.

4. Present Value: Assets are carried at the present value of the future net cash inflows that the item is expected to generate in the normal course of business. Liabilities are carried at the present value of the future net cash outflows that are expected to be required to settle the liabilities in the normal course of business.

Present value (P) is an amount, one has to invest on current date to have an amount (A) after n years. If the rate of interest is R then,

$$A = P(1 + R)^n$$

$$\text{Or } P \text{ (Present value of } A \text{ after } n \text{ years)} = \frac{A}{(1 + R)^n} = A \times \frac{1}{(1 + R)^n}$$

The process of obtaining present value of future cash flow is called discounting. The rate of interest used for discounting is called the discounting rate. The expression $[\frac{1}{(1+R)^n}]$, called discounting factor depends on values of R and n.

Let us take a numerical example assuming interest 10%, $A = ₹ 11,000$ and $n = 1$ year

$$11,000 = 10,000(1 + 0.1)^1$$

$$\text{Or Present value of ₹ 11,000 after 1 year} = \frac{11,000}{(1.10)^1} = 11,000 \times \frac{1}{(1.10)^1}$$

$$\text{Or Present value of ₹ 11,000 after 1 year} = 11,000 \times 0.909 = ₹ 10,000$$

Note that a receipt of ₹ 10,000 (present value) now is equivalent of a receipt of ₹ 11,000 (future cash inflow) after 1 year, because if one gets ₹ 10,000 now he can invest to collect ₹ 11,000 after 1 year. Likewise, a payment of ₹ 10,000 (present value) now is equivalent of paying of ₹ 11,000 (future cash outflow) after 1 year.

Thus if an asset generates ₹ 11,000 after 1 year, it is actually contributing ₹ 10,000 at the current date if the rate of earning required is 10%. In other words, the value of the asset is ₹ 10,000, which is the present value of net future cash inflow it generates.

If an asset generates ₹ 11,000 after 1 year, and ₹ 12,100 after two years, it is actually contributing ₹ 20,000 (approx.) at the current date if the rate of earning required is 10% ($₹ 11,000 \times 0.909 + ₹ 12,100 \times 0.826$). In other words the value of the asset is ₹ 20,000 (approx.), i.e. the present value of net future cash inflow it generates.

Under present value convention, assets are carried at present value of future net cash flows generated by the concerned assets in the normal course of business. Liabilities under this convention are carried at present value of future net cash flows that are expected to be required to settle the liability in the normal course of business.

Example 8

Carrying amount of a machine is ₹ 40,000 (Historical cost less depreciation). The machine is expected to generate ₹ 10,000 net cash inflow. The net realisable value (or net selling price) of the machine on current date is ₹ 35,000. The enterprise's required earning rate is 10% per year.

The enterprise can either use the machine to earn ₹ 10,000 for 5 years. This is equivalent of receiving present value of ₹ 10,000 for 5 years at discounting rate 10% on current date. The value realised by use of the asset is called value in use. The value in use is the value of asset by present value convention.

Value in use = ₹ 10,000 (0.909 + 0.826 + 0.751 + 0.683 + 0.621) = ₹ 37,900

Net selling price = ₹ 35,000

The present value of the asset is ₹ 37,900, which is called its recoverable value. It is obviously not appropriate to carry any asset at a value higher than its recoverable value. Thus the asset is currently overstated by ₹ 2,100 (₹ 40,000 – ₹ 37,900).

11. CAPITAL MAINTENANCE

Capital refers to net assets of a business. Since a business uses its assets for its operations, a fall in net assets will usually mean a fall in its activity level. It is therefore important for any business to maintain its net assets in such a way, as to ensure continued operations at least at the same level year after year. In other words, dividends should not exceed profit after appropriate provisions for replacement of assets consumed in operations. For this reason, the Companies Act does not permit distribution of dividend without providing for depreciation on fixed assets. Unfortunately, this may not be enough in case of rising prices. The point is explained below:

We have already observed: $P = (CA - CL) - (OA - OL) - C + D$

Where: Profit = P

Opening Assets = OA and Opening Liabilities = OL

Closing Assets = CA and Closing Liabilities = CL

Introduction of capital = C and Drawings / Dividends = D

Retained Profit = $P - D = (CA - CL) - (OA - OL) - C$

Or Retained Profit = Closing Equity – (Opening Equity + Capital Introduced)

A business must ensure that Retained Profit (RP) is not negative, i.e. closing equity should not be less than capital to be maintained, which is sum of opening equity and capital introduced.

It should be clear from above that the value of retained profit depends on the valuation of assets and liabilities. In order to check maintenance of capital, i.e. whether or not retained profit is negative, we can use any of following three bases:

Financial capital maintenance at historical cost: Under this convention, opening and closing assets are stated at respective historical costs to ascertain opening and closing equity. If retained profit is greater than zero, the capital is said to be maintained at historical costs. This means the business will have enough funds to replace its assets at historical costs. This is quite right as long as prices do not rise.

Example 9

A trader commenced business on 01/01/20X1 with ₹ 12,000 represented by 6,000 units of a certain product at ₹ 2 per unit. During the year 20X1 he sold these units at ₹ 3 per unit and had withdrawn ₹ 6,000. Thus:

Opening Equity = ₹ 12,000 represented by 6,000 units at ₹ 2 per unit.

Closing Equity = ₹ 12,000 (₹ 18,000 – ₹ 6,000) represented entirely by cash.

Retained Profit = ₹ 12,000 – ₹ 12,000 = Nil

The trader can start year 20X2 by purchasing 6,000 units at ₹ 2 per unit once again for selling them at ₹ 3 per unit. The whole process can repeat endlessly if there is no change in purchase price of the product.

Financial capital maintenance at current purchasing power: Under this convention, opening and closing equity at historical costs are restated at closing prices using average price indices. (For example, suppose opening equity at historical cost is ₹ 3,00,000 and opening price index is 100. The opening equity at closing prices is ₹ 3,60,000 if closing price index is 120). A positive retained profit by this method means the business has enough funds to replace its assets at average closing price. This may not serve the purpose because prices of all assets do not change at average rate in real situations. For example, price of a machine can increase by 30% while the average increase is 20%.

Example 10

In the previous example (Example 9), suppose that the average price indices at the beginning and at the end of year are 100 and 120 respectively.

Opening Equity = ₹ 12,000 represented by 6,000 units at ₹ 2 per unit.

Opening equity at closing price = (₹ 12,000 / 100) x 120 = ₹ 14,400 (6,000 x ₹ 2.40)

Closing Equity at closing price

= ₹ 12,000 (₹ 18,000 – ₹ 6,000) represented entirely by cash.

Retained Profit = ₹ 12,000 – ₹ 14,400 = (-) ₹ 2,400

The negative retained profit indicates that the trader has failed to maintain his capital. The available fund ₹ 12,000 is not sufficient to buy 6,000 units again at increased price ₹ 2.40 per unit. In fact, he should have restricted his drawings to ₹ 3,600 (₹ 6,000 – ₹ 2,400).

Had the trader withdrawn ₹ 3,600 instead of ₹ 6,000, he would have left with ₹ 14,400, the fund required to buy 6,000 units at ₹ 2.40 per unit.

Physical capital maintenance at current costs: Under this convention, the historical costs of opening and closing assets are restated at closing prices using specific price indices applicable to each asset. The liabilities are also restated at a value of economic resources to be sacrificed to settle the obligation at current date, i.e. closing date. The opening and closing equity at closing current costs are obtained as an excess of aggregate of current cost values of assets over aggregate of current cost values of liabilities. A positive retained profit by this method ensures retention of funds for replacement of each asset at respective closing prices.

Example 11 (Physical capital maintenance)

In the previous example (Example 9) suppose that the price of the product at the end of year is ₹ 2.50 per unit. In other words, the specific price index applicable to the product is 125.

Current cost of opening stock = $(₹ 12,000 / 100) \times 125 = 6,000 \times ₹ 2.50 = ₹ 15,000$

Current cost of closing cash = ₹ 12,000 (₹ 18,000 – ₹ 6,000)

Opening equity at closing current costs = ₹ 15,000

Closing equity at closing current costs = ₹ 12,000

Retained Profit = ₹ 12,000 – ₹ 15,000 = (-) ₹ 3,000

The negative retained profit indicates that the trader has failed to maintain his capital. The available fund ₹ 12,000 is not sufficient to buy 6,000 units again at increased price ₹ 2.50 per unit. The drawings should have been restricted to ₹ 3,000 (₹ 6,000 – ₹ 3,000).

Had the trader withdrawn ₹ 3,000 instead of ₹ 6,000, he would have left with ₹ 15,000, the fund required to buy 6,000 units at ₹ 2.50 per unit.

Capital maintenance can be computed under all three bases as shown below:

Financial Capital Maintenance at historical costs

	₹	₹
Closing capital (At historical cost)		12,000
Less: Capital to be maintained		
Opening capital (At historical cost)	12,000	
Introduction (At historical cost)	Nil	(12,000)
Retained profit		Nil

Financial Capital Maintenance at current purchasing power

	₹	₹
Closing capital (At closing price)		12,000
Less: Capital to be maintained		
Opening capital (At closing price)	14,400	
Introduction (At closing price)	Nil	(14,400)
Retained profit		(2,400)

Physical Capital Maintenance

	₹	₹
Closing capital (At current cost)		12,000
Less: Capital to be maintained		
Opening capital (At current cost)	15,000	
Introduction (At current cost)	Nil	(15,000)
Retained profit		(3,000)

**SUMMARY**

- Components of Financial Statements**

Balance sheet	Portrays value of economics resources controlled by an enterprise
Statement of Profit and loss	Presents the results of operations of an enterprise
Cash flow statement	Shows the way an enterprise generates cash and uses it
Notes and schedules	Presents supplementary information explaining different items

- Users of Financial Statements**

Investors	Analysis of Performance, Profitability, Financial Position of Company
Employees	Knowledge of Stability, Continuity, Growth
Suppliers, Creditors	Determination of Credit Worthiness
Customers	Analysis of Stability, Profitability

Government	Evaluation of Entity's Performance and Contribution To Social Objectives
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- **Fundamental Accounting Assumptions**

Accrual	Transactions are recognised as and when they occur, without considering receipt /payment of cash.
Going concern	Enterprise will continue in operation in foreseeable future and will not liquidate.
Consistency	Using same accounting policies for similar transactions in all accounting periods

- **Qualitative Characteristics of Financial Statements**

Understandability	Information presented in financial statements should be readily understandable by the users with reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities.
Relevance	Financial statements should contain relevant information only. Information, which is likely to influence the economic decisions of the users is called relevant.
Reliability	Information must be reliable; that is to say, they must be free from material error and bias.
Comparability	Financial statements should permit both inter-firm and intra-firm comparison.

- **Elements of Financial Statements**

Asset	Resource controlled by the enterprise as a result of past events from which future economic benefits are expected to flow to the enterprise
Liability	Present obligation of the enterprise arising from past events, the settlement of which is expected to result in an outflow of a resource embodying economic benefits.
Equity	Residual interest in the assets of an enterprise after deducting all its liabilities
Income	Increase in economic benefits during the accounting period in the form of inflows or enhancement of assets or decreases in liabilities that result in increase in equity other than those relating to contributions from equity participants

Expense	Decrease in economic benefits during the accounting period in the form of outflows or depletions of assets or incurrence of liabilities that result in decrease in equity other than those relating to distributions to equity participants
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- **Measurement of Elements in Financial Statements**

Historical cost	Acquisition price
Current Cost	Assets are carried out at the amount of cash or cash equivalent that would have to be paid if the same or an equivalent asset was acquired currently. Liabilities are carried at the undiscounted amount of cash or cash equivalents that would be required to settle the obligation currently.
Realisable (Settlement) Value	For assets, amount currently realisable on sale of the asset in an orderly disposal. For liabilities, this is the undiscounted amount expected to be paid on settlement of liability in the normal course of business.
Present Value	Assets are carried at present value of future net cash flows generated by the concerned assets in the normal course of business. Liabilities are carried at present value of future net cash flows that are expected to be required to settle the liability in the normal course of business.

- **Capital Maintenance**

Financial capital maintenance	
At historical cost	Opening and closing assets are stated at historical costs
At current purchasing power	Restatement at closing prices using average price indices
Physical capital maintenance	Restatement at closing prices using specific price indices

 **TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE****MCQs**

1. The 'going concern' concept assumes that
 - (a) The business can continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.
 - (b) The business cannot continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future
 - (c) The business is continuing to be profitable.
2. Two principal qualitative characteristics of financial statements are
 - (a) Understandability and materiality
 - (b) Relevance and reliability
 - (c) Relevance and materiality
3. All of the following are components of financial statements except
 - (a) Balance sheet
 - (b) Profit and loss account
 - (c) Human responsibility report
4. An accounting policy can be changed if the change is required
 - (a) By statute or accounting standard
 - (b) For more appropriate presentation of financial statements
 - (c) Both (a) and (b)
5. Value of equity may change due to
 - (a) Contribution from or Distribution to equity participants
 - (b) Income earned/expenses incurred
 - (c) Both (a) and (b)
6. An item that meets the definition of an element of financial statements should be recognised in the financial statements if:
 - (a) It is probable that any future economic benefit associated with the item will flow to the enterprise
 - (b) Item has a cost or value that can be measured with reliability
 - (c) Both (a) and (b)

7. A machine was acquired in exchange of an old machine and ₹ 20,000 paid in cash. The carrying amount of old machine was ₹ 2,00,000 whereas its fair value was ₹ 1,50,000 on the date of exchange. The historical cost of the new machine will be taken as
- ₹ 2,00,000
 - ₹ 1,70,000
 - ₹ 2,20,000

Theoretical Questions

Question 1

What are the qualitative characteristics of the financial statements which improve the usefulness of the information furnished therein?

Question 2

"One of the characteristics of financial statements is neutrality"- Do you agree with this statement?

Practical Questions

Question 1

Mohan started a business on 1st April 20X1 with ₹ 12,00,000 represented by 60,000 units of ₹ 20 each. During the financial year ending on 31st March, 20X2, he sold the entire stock for ₹ 30 each. In order to maintain the capital intact, calculate the maximum amount, which can be withdrawn by Mohan in the year 20X1-X2 if Financial Capital is maintained at historical cost.

Question 2

Balance Sheet of Anurag Trading Co. on 31st March, 20X1 is given below:

Liabilities	Amount (₹)	Assets	Amount (₹)
Capital	50,000	Fixed Assets	69,000
Profit and Loss A/c	22,000	Stock in Trade	36,000
10% Loan	43,000	Trade Receivables	10,000
Trade Payables	18,000	Deferred Expenditure	15,000
		Bank	3,000
	1,33,000		1,33,000

Additional Information:

- (i) Remaining life of fixed assets is 5 years with even use. The net realisable value of fixed assets as on 31st March, 20X2 was ₹ 64,000.
- (ii) Firm's sales and purchases for the year 20X1-X2 amounted to ₹ 5 lacs and ₹4.50 lacs respectively.
- (iii) The cost and net realisable value of the stock were ₹34,000 and ₹38,000 respectively.
- (iv) General Expenses for the year 20X1-X2 were ₹16,500.
- (v) Deferred Expenditure is normally amortised equally over 4 years starting from F.Y. 20X0-X1 i.e. ₹5,000 per year.
- (vi) Out of debtors worth ₹10,000, collection of ₹4,000 depends on successful re-design of certain product already supplied to the customer.
- (vii) Closing trade payable is ₹10,000, which is likely to be settled at 95%.
- (viii) There is pre-payment penalty of ₹2,000 for Bank loan outstanding.

Prepare Profit & loss Account for the year ended 31st March, 20X2 by assuming it is not a Going Concern.

ANSWERS/ HINTS**MCQ**

[Ans. 1. (a), 2. (b), 3. (c), 4. (c), 5. (c), 6 (c), 7. (b)]

THEORETICAL QUESTIONS**Answer 1**

The qualitative characteristics are attributes that improve the usefulness of information provided in financial statements. Understandability; Relevance; Reliability; Comparability and are the qualitative characteristics of financial statements. For details, refer para 7 of the chapter.

Answer 2

Yes, one of the characteristics of financial statements is neutrality. To be reliable, the information contained in financial statement must be neutral, that is free from bias. Financial Statements are not neutral if by the selection or presentation of information, the focus of analysis could shift from one area of business to another thereby arriving at a totally different conclusion on the business results.

ANSWERS TO PRACTICAL QUESTIONS**Answer 1**

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Financial Capital Maintenance at Historical Cost</i> (₹)
Closing equity (₹ 30 x 60,000 units)	18,00,000 represented by cash
Opening equity	60,000 units x ₹ 20 = 12,00,000
Permissible drawings to keep Capital intact	6,00,000 (18,00,000 – 12,00,000)

Answer 2

Profit and Loss Account of Anurag Trading Co. for the year ended 31st March, 20X2
(Assuming business is not a going concern)

	₹		₹
To Opening Stock	36,000	By Sales	5,00,000
To Purchases	4,50,000	By Trade payables	500
To General expenses	16,500	By Closing Stock	38,000
To Depreciation (69,000-64,000)	5,000		
To Provision for doubtful debts	4,000		
To Deferred expenditure	15,000		
To Loan penalty	2,000		
To Net Profit (b.f.)	<u>10,000</u>		
	<u>5,38,500</u>		<u>5,38,500</u>