

Solutions Manual

Pearson's **Federal Taxation 2023** *Individuals*

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Chapter I:1

An Introduction to Taxation

Discussion Questions

I:1-1 The Supreme Court held the income tax to be unconstitutional in 1895 because the income tax was considered to be a direct tax. At that time, the U.S. Constitution required that an income tax be apportioned among the states in proportion to their populations. This type of tax system would be extremely difficult to administer because different rates of tax would apply to individual taxpayers depending on their states of residence. p. I:1-2.

I:1-2 The pay-as-you-go withholding was needed in 1943 to avoid significant tax collection problems as the tax base broadened from 6% of the population in 1939 to 74% in 1945. Pay-as-you-go permitted the federal government to deduct taxes directly out of an employee's wages. p. I:1-3.

I:1-3 Under a progressive tax rate structure, the tax rate increases as the taxpayer's income increases. Currently, for 2022, tax rates of 10%, 12%, 22%, 24%, 32%, 35% or 37% apply depending upon the taxpayer's filing status and taxable income levels. Under a proportional tax rate or "flat tax" structure, the same tax rate applies to all taxpayers regardless of their income levels. Under a regressive tax rate structure, the tax rate decreases with an increase in income level. The concept of vertical equity holds that taxpayers with higher income levels should pay a higher proportion of tax and that the tax should be borne by those who have the "ability to pay." Thus, Congressman Patrick's opposition to the flat tax is philosophically correct; under a flat tax system, all taxpayers pay taxes at the same rate, regardless of the ability to pay. pp. I:1-4 and I:1-5.

I:1-4 It is possible for the government to raise taxes without raising tax rates. Because there are two components in computing a taxpayer's tax, the tax base and the tax rate, taxes can be raised by increasing either the rate or the base. Thus, even though the Governor proclaimed that tax rates have remained at the same level, adjustments to the tax base, such as the elimination of deductions, result in tax increases which can be as much, or more, as increases in tax rates. p. I:1-4.

I:1-5 The marginal tax rate is of greater significance in measuring the tax effect for Carmen's decision. The marginal tax rate is the percentage that is applied to an incremental amount of taxable income that is added to or subtracted from the tax base. Through the marginal tax rate, the taxpayer may measure the tax effect of the charitable contribution to her church. If her marginal tax rate is 24%, she will save 24¢ for each \$1 contributed to her church. The average tax rate is simply the total tax liability divided by taxable income. pp. I:1-5 and I:1-6.

I:1-6 Gift and estate taxes are levied when a transfer of wealth (property) takes place and are both part of the unified transfer tax system. The tax base for computing the gift tax is the fair market value of all gifts made in the current year minus an annual donee exclusion of \$16,000 (2022) per donee, minus a marital deduction for gifts to spouse and a charitable contributions deduction if applicable, plus the value of all taxable gifts in prior years. The tax base for the estate tax is the decedent's gross estate, minus deductions for expenses, and a marital or charitable deduction if applicable, plus taxable gifts made after 1976. pp. I:1-7 through I:1-10.

I:1-7 a. Cathy, the donor, is primarily liable for the gift tax on the two gifts. The children are contingently liable for payment of the gift tax in the event the donor fails to pay.

b. Before considering the unified tax credit equivalent of \$12.06 million for 2022, a gift tax results on the two gifts for the current year 2022 computed as follows:

Total gifts	\$100,000
Minus: Annual gift tax exclusion (\$16,000 x 2 donees)	<u>(32,000)</u>
Gift tax base	<u>\$ 68,000</u>

Since Cathy has never made gifts in prior years, no gift tax will be due because of the substantial unified tax credit that is available. pp. I:1-8 and I:1-9.

I:1-8 Carlos would report a taxable gain of \$2,000 (\$27,000 - \$25,000). His tax basis in the stock that he inherited is the fair market value on the date of his father's death. pp. I:1-9 and I:1-10.

I:1-9 a. Most estates are **not** subject to the federal estate tax because of generous credit and deduction provisions, such as the unified tax credit and the unlimited marital deduction. The unified tax credit equivalent for 2022 is \$12.06 million. This means that, at a minimum, for decedents dying in 2022, no estate of \$12.06 million or less will be subject to the federal estate tax.

b. This is a controversial question that has proponents on both sides of the issue. Those that believe the estate tax should be reduced or eliminated basically argue that the estate tax is a double tax, that is, the property of the decedent has already been subject to income taxation during his or her lifetime and should not be subjected to further taxation at death. On the other hand, proponents of retaining or increasing the estate tax believe in the ability to pay principle. p. I:1-10.

- I:1-10 a.** Progressive.
b. Progressive.
c. Proportional.
d. Proportional.
e. Proportional. (However, state and local sales taxes are considered regressive when