# UNDERWRITING OF SHARES AND DEBENTURES

# **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

# After studying this chapter, you will be able to:

- Learn the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 regarding underwriting of shares
- Determine the liability of underwriters where shares are fully underwritten or partially underwritten
- Account for firm underwriting of shares

# **CHAPTER OVERVIEW**

- Underwriting contracts are basically of two types:
  - Wholly underwritten if one person is responsible to subscribe all the issue.
  - Partially underwritten, when some part of the issue is considered to be underwritten by company.
- > Two types of underwriting contract: (i) Normal Underwriting; (ii) Firm Underwriting
- Firm underwriting signifies a definite commitment to take up a specified number of shares irrespective of the number of shares subscribed for by the public.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Underwriting an issue of shares or debentures involves entering into a contract with a person known as underwriter, who may be an individual, partnership or company, undertaking that in the event of the shares or debentures not being subscribed by the public or only a part of them being subscribed, he shall take up the balance. In view of the magnitude of such an obligation, issues of shares or debentures are rarely underwritten by one person. They are either underwritten by two or more persons jointly or only a part of the issue is underwritten and, in respect of rest, the company takes the risk of the capital being not subscribed by the public.

## 2 UNDERWRITING COMMISSION

The function of an underwriter has great economic significance. It provides an assurance to the company that it would be able to raise the stipulated amount of capital by the issue of shares or debentures and, on the basis of such an assurance; company can proceed to draw up its investment programme. The Central Government has recently set up a number of financial institutions for helping companies to raise capital. One of the forms in which such a help is rendered is by underwriting the issues of shares and debentures, made by the companies. The prominent institutions that render this service are: Industrial Finance Corporation, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India and Life Insurance Corporation of India.

In consideration of such a service, the underwriter is paid a commission. The Companies Act, 2013 places certain restrictions on the rate of commission and the conditions under which it can be paid. It provides that commission only at a rate authorized by the Articles, not exceeding 2½% of the issue price of debentures and 5% of issue price of shares, can be paid. No commission can be paid in respect of shares or debentures which have not been offered to the general public for subscription.

# 3 PROVISIONS IN THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AFFECTING UNDERWRITING

**Disclosure in the Prospectus**- According the Companies Act, 2013, it is necessary that when any issue of shares or debentures is underwritten, the names of the underwriters and the opinion of the directors that the resources of the underwriters are sufficient to discharge their obligations should be stated.

**Disclosure in the Statutory Report** - A brief description of each underwritten contract should be given and, if any contract has not been carried out fully, the extent to which it has not been carried out and reasons therefore should be stated. In addition, particulars of any commission paid or payable to any Director, Manager, or their associates should be disclosed.

#### 4. UNDERWRITING CONTRACT

There are two types of underwriting contract

- (i) Normal Underwriting
- (ii) Firm Underwriting

# 4.1 Determination of liability in Respect of a Normal Underwriting Contract

**4.1.1 Determination of liability where whole of the issue has been underwritten by one person:** If the whole of the issue has been underwritten by one person, he is responsible to subscribe for all the shares or debentures that have not been subscribed by the public. In such a case, it is not necessary to know the number of applications which had originated through the underwriter and those which had flowed directly to the company.

# 4.1.2 Determination of liability where only part of the issue has been underwritten:

Suppose, a company has issued 10,000 shares of which only 6,000 have been underwritten by X; marked applications exceed 6,000. In such a case, X would not be liable to subscribe for any shares. If, however, there are marked applications for only 5,000 shares X would have to subscribe for 1,000 shares provided on his doing so the total number of shares allotted (including those to X) does not exceed 10,000. If it does, the number of shares which X must subscribe will be reduced to that extent.

**4.1.3 Determination of liability where the whole or part of the issue has been underwritten by two or more underwriters:** In the case in which whole or only part of an issue has been underwritten by a number of underwriters, a difficulty may arise in determining the liability of each of the underwriters; such a difficulty may arise in deciding the basis on which the unmarked applications, *i.e.* the applications which have directly flowed to the company should be allocated among the different underwriters. Marked applications are those applications which are received through an underwriter and such applications are to his credit against his overall obligations.

The allocation of unmarked applications to the underwriters can be done in any one of the two ways: according to one method, the unmarked applications are allotted in the proportion of gross amount of capital underwritten; alternatively these are allocated in proportion to the gross amount of capital underwritten as reduced by the marked applications. How the liability of underwriters is determined by following one or the other method, is explained below:

Elahi Buksh & Co. Ltd. issued 10,000 equity shares. These were underwritten as follows:

A 40% B 35% C 25%

In all, applications for 8,000 shares were received; applications for 2,000 shares have the stamp of A; those for 1,000 shares that of B, and those for 2,000 shares that of C. There were thus applications for 3,000 shares which did not bear any stamp or which were unmarked. If credit for unmarked applications is given to A, B and C in proportion to their gross liability, the liability of each of the underwriters will be as shown below:

	А	В	С
Gross liability as underwritten	4,000	3,500	2,500

Less: Unmarked applications				
3,000 shares in the ratio of 40:35:25	<u>(1,200)</u>	(1,050)	<u>(750)</u>	
Gross Liability of underwriters	2,800	2,450	1,750	
Marked applications	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	
Balance	800	1,450	(250)	
Credit to A and B for C's surplus (ratio 40:35)	( <u>133)</u>	<u>(117)</u>	<u>250</u>	
Actual liability	<u>667</u>	<u>1,333</u>		

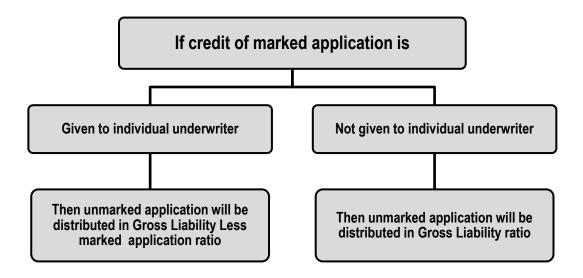
If however, the other view is taken that unmarked applications should be credited to different underwriters in the ratio of liability after credit for marked applications has been given - the position will be as follows:

	А	В	С
Gross liability	4,000	3,500	2,500
Less: marked applications	(2,000)	(1,000)	(2,000)
Liability net of marked applications	2,000	2,500	500
Less: Unmarked applications	(1,200)	(1,500)	(300)
(3,000 Shares in ratio of 20:25:5)			
Net liability	<u>800</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>200</u>

The liability in this case could also be determined by simply apportioning the total number of shares yet to be subscribed (2,000 in the above case) in the proportion of the balance of the liability after credit for marked forms has been given (i.e., in the ration of 2,000: 2,500: 500 or 20:25:5).

Since the liability of each underwriter may vary widely if one or the other method is followed, the underwriting contract should specify the method to be followed.

**Note:** Students are advised to clarify the position by way of suitable note in the examination.



The surplus shown by the particular underwriters is to be credited to the other underwriters in same proportion as for unmarked applications.

#### Illustration 1

Newton Limited incorporated on 1st January, 20X1 issued a prospectus inviting applications for 20,000 equity shares of  $\nearrow$  10 each. The whole issue was fully underwritten by Adams, Benzamin and Clayton as follows:

Adams	10,000 shares
Benzamin	6,000 shares
Clayton	4,000 shares

Applications were received for 16,000 shares, of which marked applications were as follows:

Adams8,000 sharesBenzamin2,850 sharesClayton4,150 shares

You are required to find out the liabilities of individual underwriters.

#### Solution

#### **Statement of Net Liability of Underwriters**

	Gross	Marked	Number of	Shares	Surplus	Total	Net
	liability	appli-	Unmarked	Total	of		liability
		cations	applications		Clayton		
			in the ratio		in the		
			of gross		ratio		
			liability		of 10:6		
				(2) + (3)		(4)+(5)	(1)- (6)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Adams	10,000	8,000	500	8,500	219	8,719	1,281
Benzamin	6,000	2,850	300	3,150	131	3,281	2,719
Clayton	4,000	<u>4,150</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>4,350</u>	<u>-350</u>	<u>4,000</u>	=
	20,000	15,000	1,000	16,000	_	16,000	4,000

*Note:* The applications are for 16,000 shares out of which 15,000 are marked. Hence unmarked applications are for 1,000 shares.

#### Illustration 2

Gemini Ltd. came up with public issue of 30,00,000 Equity shares of  $\ref{totaleq}$  10 each at  $\ref{totaleq}$  15 per share. A, B and C took underwriting of the issue in 3 : 2 : 1 ratio.

Applications were received for 27,00,000 shares.

The marked applications were received as under:

А	8,00,000 shares
В	7,00,000 shares
С	6,00,000 shares

Commission payable to underwriters is at 5% on the face value of shares.

- (i) Compute the liability of each underwriter as regards the number of shares to be taken up.
- (ii) Pass journal entries in the books of Gemini Ltd. to record the transactions relating to underwriters.

## **Solution**

# (i) Computation of liability of underwriters in respect of shares

	(In shares)				
	А	В	С		
Gross liability (Total Issue of 30,00,000 equity shares) in agreed ration of 3 : 2 : 1	15,00,000	10,00,000	5,00,000		
Less: Unmarked applications (Subscribed shares – marked shares) in 3 : 2 : 1	(3,00,000)	(2,00,000)	(1,00,000)		
Marked shares as per agreed ratio	12,00,000	8,00,000	4,00,000		
Less: Marked applications actually received	(8,00,000)	(7,00,000)	(6,00,000)		
Shortfall / surplus in marked shares	4,00,000	1,00,000	(2,00,000)		
Surplus of C distributed to A & B in 3:2 ratio	(1,20,000)	(80,000)	<u>2,00,000</u>		
Net liability for underwriting shares	2,80,000	20,000	Nil		

# (ii) Journal Entries in the books of Gemini Ltd.

		₹	₹
A's Account (2,80,000 x 15)	Dr.	42,00,000	
B's Account (20,000 x 15)	Dr.	3,00,000	
To Share Capital Account (3,00,000 x 10)			30,00,000
To Securities Premium Account (3,00,000 x 5)			15,00,000
(Being the shares to be taken up by the underwriters)			
Underwriting Commission Account	Dr.	15,00,000	
To A's Account (15,00,000 x 10 x 5%)			7,50,000
To B's Account (10,00,000 x 10 x 5%)			5,00,000
To C's Account (5,00,000 x 10 x 5%)			2,50,000
(Being the underwriting commission due to the underwriters)			
Bank Account	Dr.	34,50,000	

To A's Account			34,50,000
(Being the amount received from underwriter A for the shares taken up by him after adjustment of his commission)			
B's Account	Dr.	2,00,000	
To Bank Account			2,00,000
(Being the amount paid to underwriter B after adjustment of the shares taken by him against underwriting commission due to him)			
C's Account	Dr.	2,50,000	
To Bank Account			2,50,000
(Being the underwriting commission paid to C)			

**Note:** C had sold in excess of the underwriting obligation and hence he will not be required to purchase any shares but will get commission for underwriting.

# 4.2 Firm Underwriting

It signifies a definite commitment to take up a specified number of shares irrespective of the number of shares subscribed for by the public. In such a case, unless it has been otherwise agreed, the underwriter's liability is determined without taking into account the number of shares taken up 'firm' by him that is to say, the underwriter is obliged to take up:

- (i) The number of shares he has applied for 'firm'; and
- (ii) The number of shares he is obliged to take up on the basis of the underwriting agreement (without taking into account the number of shares taken up 'firm' by him, unless otherwise agreed).

In other words, in such cases the obligation or liability of the underwriter is the aggregate of shares to be taken up under firm commitment and the shares as per underwriting commitment.

Let us say, A underwrites 60% of an issue of 10,000 shares and besides applies for 1,000 shares, 'firm'. In case there are marked applications for 4,800 shares he will have to take 2,200 shares, *i.e.* 1,000 shares for which he applied 'firm' and 1,200 shares to meet his liability of underwriting contract. If, on the other hand, the underwriting contract has provided that abatement would be allowed in respect

of shares taken up 'firm' the liability of A in the above-mentioned case would only be for 1,200 shares in total.

We can take another example where A underwrites 60% of an issue of 10,000 shares of ₹ 10 each of XY Co. Ltd. and also applies for 1,000 shares, 'firm'. The underwriting commission is agreed to at the rate of 2.5 percent. In case there are marked applications for 4,800 shares, he will have to take up 2,200 shares, i.e. 1,000 shares for which he applied 'firm' and 1,200 shares (6,000 – 4,800) to meet his liability under the underwriting contract. If, on the other hand, the underwriting contract has provided that an abatement would be allowed in respect of shares taken up under 'firm' underwriting, the liability of A in the above-mentioned case would only be for 1,200 shares in total as he will be exempt to buy his committed shares.

The accounting entries in relation to firm underwriting of 1,000 shares in the above example are given below:

#### **Entries in the books of XY Co. Ltd. (Company)**

			Dr.	Cr.
			₹	₹
1.	A's Account	Dr.	10,000	
	To Equity Share Capital Account			10,000
	(Being allotment of underwritten equity shares in pursuance			
	of firm underwriting contract, vide Board's resolution)	_		
2.	Underwriting Commission on Issue of Shares Account	Dr.	250	
	To A's Account (1,000 x 10 x 2.5%)			250
	(Being underwriting commission due to the underwriter under the firm underwriting contract)	_		
3.	Bank Account	Dr.	9,750	
	To A's Account			9,750
	(Being money received in full settlement of account from underwriter)			

#### **Entries in the books of A (Underwriter)**

			Dr.	Cr.
			₹	₹
1.	Underwriting Account	Dr.	10,000	
	To XY Co. Ltd. Account			10,000
	(Being the liability to take up necessary number of shares of the company in pursuance of firm underwriting contract recorded)			
2.	XY Co. Ltd. Account	Dr.	250	
	To Underwriting Account			250
	(Being underwriting commission income credited to underwriting account)			
3.	XY Co. Ltd. Account	Dr.	9,750	
	To Bank Account			9,750
	(Being balance money paid to the company in full settlement of account			

## 4.2.1 When the Issue is Fully Underwritten [with Firm Underwriting]

There are two alternative ways:

- (i) The benefit of firm underwriting is not given to individual underwriter, or
- (ii) The benefit of firm underwriting is given to individual underwriter.

# (i) The benefit of firm underwriting is not given to individual Underwriter:

For determining the liability of individual underwriter, the following steps are followed:

- **Step 1** Compute gross liability in the usual manner (if it has not been given).
- **Step 2** Subtract marked applications (excluding firm underwriting) from gross liability of respective underwriters. If some of the resultant figures are found negative, then add all negative figures and divide the resultant in the ratio of gross liability of those having a positive balance.

#### **Step 3** Determine the number of unmarked applications as follows:

Total subscriptions (excluding firm underwriting)	*****
Less: Marked applications (excluding firm underwriting)	*****
Unmarked applications by public	*****
Add: Applications under firm underwriting	*****
Total unmarked applications	*****

Divide the above calculated unmarked applications in the ratio of **gross liability.** 

If the resultant figures of Step 3 are all positive or zero, then it represents **net liability** as per agreement. After this step, go to Step 5 (skip Step 4).

#### If some of the resultant figures are negative, then continue to Step 4.

- **Step 4** Add all the negative figures and divide the resultant between the underwriters having positive figures in the ratio of **gross liability.** Repeat Step 4 unless all figures are non-negative. Now these figures represent the **net liability** as per agreement. After this step, to Step 5.
- **Step 5** Add firm underwriting with the **net liability** as per agreement. The resultant figures represent **total liability**.

#### Here.

- (1) Firm underwriting is treated as unmarked applications and divided in the ratio of gross liability.
- (2) The liability of underwriter consists of:
  - (a) Net liability as per agreement; and
  - (b) Firm underwriting.

# (ii) The benefit of firm underwriting is given to individual underwriter

For determining the liability of individual underwriter, the following steps are followed:

- **Step 1** Compute gross liability in the usual manner (if it has not been given).
- **Step 2** Subtract marked applications (excluding firm underwriting) from gross liability of respective underwriters. If some of the resultant figures are found negative, then add all negative figures and divide their sum in the ratio of gross liability of those having a positive balance.
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**Step 3** Determine the number of unmarked applications as follows:

Total subscriptions (excluding firm underwriting)	*****
Less: Marked applications (excluding firm underwriting)	*****
Unmarked applications by public	*****

Divide the above calculated unmarked application in the **ratio of gross liability.** 

**Step 4** Subtract "firm underwriting" of individual underwriter from the respective figures of Step 3.

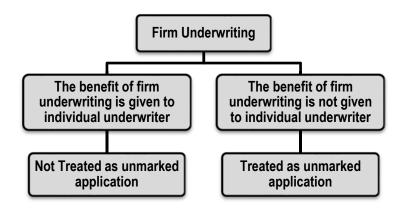
If the resultant figures of Step 4 are all positive or zero, then that represents net liability as per agreement. After this step, go to Step 6 (skip Step 5).

If some of the resultant figures are negative, then continue to Step 5.

- **Step 5** Add all negative figures and divide it between the underwriters having positive figures in the ratio of gross liability. Repeat Step 5 unless all figures are non-negative. Now these figures represent the net liability as per agreement. After this step, go to Step 6.
- **Step 6** Add firm underwriting with the net liability as per agreement. The resultant figures represent total liability.

#### Here,

- (1) Firm underwriting is not treated as unmarked applications.
- (2) Firm underwriting is credited to individual underwriters separately.
- (3) The liability of Underwriter consists of:
  - (a) Net liability as per agreement; and
  - (b) Firm underwriting.



#### Illustration 3

Rosy Ltd. made a public issue of 4,00,000 equity shares of ₹ 10 each, ₹ 2 payable on application. The entire issue was underwritten by five underwriters as follows: A: 25%, B: 25%, C: 25%, D: 10% and E: 15%. Under the underwriting terms, a commission of 2% was payable on the amount underwritten. Further, the underwriter was at liberty to apply, during the tenure of public issue, for any number of shares in which case he was entitled to a brokerage equal to 1/2% of the par value of shares so applied for.

Applications received were to be analyzed on the basis of rubber stamp of the underwriter, who was to be given credit for the number of applications received bearing his rubber stamp. Applications received which did not bear any rubber stamp were considered as "direct applications" to be credited to all the underwriters in the ratio of their respective underwriting commitment. If, any such credit being given a "surplus" was to result in respect of any underwriter, as compared to his commitment, such surplus was to be distributed amongst the remaining underwriters in the ratio of their respective underwriting commitments.

As a result of the issue the following applications were received:

Bearing rubber stamp of	Α	1,02,000 shares
-Do-	В	95,000 shares
-Do-	С	60,000 shares
-Do-	D	32,000 shares
-Do-	E	51,000 shares
Not bearing any stamp		<u> 10,000 shares</u>
		<u>3,50,000 shares</u>

Included in the number of applications mentioned against D in the above table was an application made by D himself for 10,000 shares. The underwriters were informed of the amounts due to or from them, the amounts were duly received or paid.

Show, with the aid of necessary workings, the entries to record the amount so received or paid.

#### Solution

#### **Journal Entry**

		Dr.	Cr.
		₹	₹
Bank A/c	Dr.	57,500	
Underwriting commission A/c	Dr.	80,000	
Brokerage on shares A/c	Dr.	500	
To Equity Shares applications A/c			1,00,000
To Bank A/c			38,000

# Working Notes:(for description of the columns see below)

Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A.	1,00,000	1,02,000	2,500	1,04,500	-4,500	1,00,000	_	_	20,000	-		20,000
B.	1,00,000	95,000	2,500	97,500	1,500	99,000	1,000	2,000	20,000	_	_	18,000
C.	1,00,000	60,000	2,500	62,500	1,500	64,000	36,000	72,000	20,000	_	52,000	_
D.	40,000	32,000	1,000	33,000	600	33,600	6,400	12,800	8,000	500	4,300	_
E.	60,000	51,000	1,500	52,500	900	53,400	6,600	13,200	12,000	_	1,200	_
	4,00,000	3,40,000	10,000	3,50,000	_	3,50,000	50,000	1,00,000	80,000	500	57,500	38,000

#### Column No.

- (1) Commitment—No. of Shares
- (2) Marked Applications
- (3) Additional proportionate no. of direct applications or unmarked applicaitons
- (4) Total (2) + (3)
- (5) Allocation of surplus done in the ratio of underwriting i.e 25:25:10:15 (B, C, D & E)

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- (6) Total (4)+(5) this will be the total credited applications
- (7) Final Deficit (1)—(6): Commitment Total Credited Applications
- (8) Amount Receivable from underwriters due @ ₹ 2 per share
- (9) Underwriting Commission due @ 2 % nominal value.
- (10) Brokerage due @ 1/2%: Only payable to D for 10,000/- shares applied by him on par value of the shares i.e on Rs 100,000
- (11) Due from underwriters
- (12) Due to underwriters

#### Illustration 4

Libra Ltd. came up with an issue of 20,00,000 equity shares of ₹ 10 each at par. 5,00,000 shares were issued to the promoters and the balance offered to the public was underwritten by three underwriters Anand, Vijay and Ashok - equally with firm underwriting of 50,000 shares each. Subscriptions totalled 12,97,000 shares including the marked forms which were :

Anand 4,25,000 shares
Vijay 4,50,000 shares
Ashok 3,50,000 shares

The underwriters had applied for the number of shares covered by firm underwriting. The amounts payable on application and allotment were  $\ref{2.50}$  and  $\ref{2.00}$  respectively. The agreed commission was 5%.

Pass summary journal entries for —

- (a) The allotment of shares to the underwriters;
- (b) The commission due to each of them; and
- (c) The net cash paid and or received.

**Note:** Unmarked applications are to be credited to underwriters equally. Benefit of firm underwriting is given to individual underwriter.

## Solution

# Libra Ltd. Journal

		Dr. ₹	Cr. ₹
Bank A/c	Dr.	3,75,000	
To Share Application A/c			3,75,000
(Application money received on firm applica 50,000 each @ ₹ 2.50 per share from Anand Ashok)			
Anand	Dr.	1,00,000	
Vijay	Dr.	1,00,000	
Ashok	Dr.	3,38,500	
Share Application A/c	Dr.	3,75,000	
To Share Capital A/c			9,13,500
(Allotment of shares to underwriters 50,000 to 50,000 to Vijay and 1,03,000 to Ashok; applicat allotment money credited to share capital)	-		
Underwriting Commission A/c	Dr.	7,50,000	
To Anand			2,50,000
To Vijay			2,50,000
To Ashok			2,50,000
(Amount of underwriting commission payable to Vijay and Ashok @ 5% on the amount of underwritten.)			
Bank A/c	Dr.	88,500	
To Ashok			88,500
(Amount received from Ashok on shares allott underwriting commission)	ed less		
Anand	Dr.	1,50,000	
Vijay	Dr.	1,50,000	

To Bank A/c	3,00,000	
(Amount paid to Anand & Vijay in final settlement of underwriting commission due less amount payable on		
shares allotted payable to him.)		

# **Working Notes:**

# (1) Calculation of Liability of Underwriters

	Anand	Vijay	Ashok
Gross Liability (No. of shares)	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000
Less : Marked Applications(excluding firm underwriting)	(4,25,000)	(4,50,000)	(3,50,000)
	75,000	50,000	1,50,000
Less :Unmarked Applications (equally)	(24,000)	(24,000)	( 24,000)
	51,000	26,000	1,26,000
Less : Firm Underwriting	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)
	1,000	(24,000)	76,000
Surplus of Vijay distributed between Anand & Ashok equally	(12,000)	24,000	(12,000)
	(11,000)	-	64,000-
Surplus of Anand allocated to Ashok totally	<u>11,000</u>		(11,000)
Net liability, excluding firm underwriting		_	53,000
<i>Add</i> : Firm underwriting	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	50,000
Total liability of underwriters	<u>50,000</u>	50,000	1,03,000

# (2) Calculation of Amounts Payable by Underwriters

	Anand	Vijay	Ashok
Liability (No. of shares)	50,000	50,000	1,03,000
Amount payable @ ₹ 4.50 per share	2,25,000	2,25,000	4,63,500
Less : Amount paid on Firm			
Applications of 50,000 each @ ₹ 2.50	(1,25,000)	(1,25,000)	(1,25,000)
Balance payable	1,00,000	1,00,000	3,38,500

Underwriting Commission (50,000 x 10 x 5%)	<u>2,50,000</u>	<u>2,50,000</u>	<u>2,50,000</u>
Amount Paid	<u>1,50,000</u>	<u>1,50,000</u>	
Amount received by the Co.			88,500

#### Illustration 5

A company made a public issue of 1,25,000 equity shares of  $\ref{thmodel}$  100 each,  $\ref{thmodel}$  50 payable on application. The entire issue was underwritten by four parties: A, B, C, and D in the proportion of 30% and 25%, 25% and 20% respectively. Under the terms agreed upon, a commission of 2% was payable on the amounts underwritten.

A, B, C, and D also agreed on 'firm'; underwriting of 4,000, 6,000, Nil and 15,000 shares respectively.

The total subscriptions, excluding firm underwriting, including marked applications were for 90,000 shares. Marked applications received were as under:

A 24,000 C 12,000 B 20,000 D 24,000

Ascertain the liability of the individual underwriters and also show the journal entries that you would make in the books of the company. All workings should form part of your answer.

#### Solution

(iii)

When the benefit of firm underwriting is given to individual underwriters.

# (i) Total marked applications:

A B C D 24,000 +20,000 +12,000 +24,000 = 80,000

# (ii) Shares subscribed excluding firm underwriting

Total applications 90,000 shares Less: Marked applications (80,000) shares

Unmarked <u>10,000</u>

# Statement showing Liability of underwriters

	А	В	С	D	Total
Gross liability(30:25:25:20)	37,500	31,250	31,250	25,000	1,25,000
Less: Marked applications	(24,000)	(20,000)	(12,000)	(24,000)	(80,000)
	13,500	11,250	19,250	1,000	45,000

Less: Unmarked (in Gross					
Ratio)	(3,000)	(2,500)	(2,500)	(2,000)	(10,000)
	10,500	8,750	16,750	-1,000	35,000
Less: Firm underwriting	(4,000)	<u>(6,000)</u>	=	(15,000)	(25,000)
	6,500	2,750	16,750	-16,000	10,000
Less: Surplus of 'D' allotted to					
A,B&C (30:25:25)	<u>(6,000)</u>	(5,000)	(5,000)		=
	500	(2,250)	11,750	_	10,000
Surplus of 'B' allotted	<u>500</u>		<u>1,750</u>		=
Net liability			<u>10,000</u>		<u>10,000</u>

# (iv) Statement of underwriters' liability

Firm	4,000	6,000	_	15,000 25,000
Others	<u>–</u>	_	10,000	- 10,000
	4,000	6,000	10,000	15,000 35,000

# (v) Amounts due from underwriters

	А	В	C	D	Total
Shares to be subscribed					
as per (iv) above	4,000	6,000	10,000	15,000	35,000
Amount due @ ₹ 50 per share	2,00,000	3,00,000	5,00,000	7,50,000	17,50,000
Less: Commission due of shares underwritten @ 2% of					
amount of gross liability	(75,000)	(62,500)	(62,500)	(50,000)	(2,50,000)
	1,25,000	2,37,500	4,37,500	7,00,000	15,00,000

When the benefit of firm underwriting is not given to individual underwriter:

- (i) Total marked applications =24,000+20,000+12,000+24,000=80,000
- (ii) Shares subscribed excluding

'Firm' underwriting but including

Marked applications 90,000 shares

Add: 'Firm' underwriting	25,000	shares
Total subscription	1,15,000	shares
Less: Marked Applications	(80,000)	shares
Balance being unmarked	35,000	shares

#### (vi) Check:

(a) Taken by public - unmarked applications 10,000 shares

(b) Public through underwriters - marked 80,000 shares

(c) By underwriters - under agreement <u>35,000 shares</u>

1,25,000 shares

#### **Journal Entry**

		₹	₹
Bank A/c	Dr.	62,50,000	
To Equity share Application A/c (1,25,000 x 50)			62,50,000
Underwriting Commission A/c	Dr.	2,50,000	
To Bank A/c			2,50,000

#### Illustration 7

Outset Ltd. invited applications from public for 1,00,000 equity shares of  $\ref{thmodel}$  10 each at a premium of  $\ref{thmodel}$ 5 per share. The entire issue was underwritten by the underwriters P, Q, R and S to the extent of 30%, 30%, 20% and 20% respectively with the provision of firm underwriting of 3,000, 2,000, 1,000 and 1,000 shares respectively. The underwriters were entitled to the maximum commission permitted by law.

The company received applications for 70,000 shares (excluding firm underwriting) from public out of which applications for 19,000, 10,000, 21,000 and 8,000 shares were marked in favour of P, Q, R and S respectively.

Calculate the liability of each underwriter assuming that the benefit of firm underwriting is not given to individual underwriters. Also ascertain the underwriting commission payable to different underwriters.

Solution

Calculation of liability of each underwriter if the benefit of firm underwriting is not given to individual underwriters

(Number of shares)					
	Р	Q	R	S	Total
Gross Liability	30,000	30,000	20,000	20,000	1,00,000
Less: Marked applications (excluding firm underwriting)	(19,000)	(10,000)	(21,000)	(8,000)	(58,000)
Balance	11,000	20,000	(1,000)	12,000	42,000
Less: Surplus of R allocated to P, Q and S in the ratio of 3:3:2	(375)	(375)	1,000	(250)	-
Balance	10,625	19,625	-	11,750	42,000
Less: Unmarked applications including firm underwriting (refer working note)	(5,700)	(5,700)	(3,800)	(3,800)	(19,000)
Net Liability	4,925	13,925	(3,800)	7,950	23,000
Less: Surplus of R allocated to P, Q and S in the ratio of					
3:3:2	(1,425)	(1,425)	3,800	(950)	-
	3,500	12,500	-	7,000	23,000
Add: Firm underwriting	3,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	7,000
Total Liability	6,500	14,500	1,000	8,000	30,000

# Calculation of underwriting commission:

As per law in force, underwriting commission is payable @ 5% of the issue price of shares.

Underwriting commission payable to P and Q=5% of (₹ 15 × 30,000 shares)

= ₹22,500.

Underwriting commission payable to R and S = 5% of (₹ 15 x 20,000 shares)

= ₹ 15,000.

#### **Working Note:**

Application received from public	70,000 shares
Add: Shares underwritten firm	7,000 shares
Total application	77,000 shares
Less: Marked applications	(58,000 shares)
Unmarked application including firm underwriting	19,000 shares

#### Illustration 8

A company issued 1,50,000 shares of  $\ref{10}$  each at a premium of  $\ref{10}$ . The entire issue was underwritten as follows:

- *X* 90000 shares (Firm underwriting 12000 shares)
- *Y 37500 shares (Firm underwriting 4500 shares)*
- Z 22500 shares (Firm underwriting 15000 shares)

Total subscriptions received by the company (excluding firm underwriting and marked applications) were 22500 shares.

The marked applications (excluding firm underwriting) were as follows:

- X 15000 shares
- Y 30000 shares
- *Z* 7500 shares

Commission payable to underwriters is at 5% of the issue price. The underwriting contract provides that credit for unmarked applications be given to the underwriters in proportion to the shares underwritten and benefit of firm underwriting is to be given to individual underwriters.

- (i) Determine the liability of each underwriter (number of shares);
- (ii) Compute the amounts payable or due from underwriters; and
- (iii) Pass Journal Entries in the books of the company relating to underwriting.

## **Solution**

# (i) Computation of total liability of underwriters in shares

	(In shares)			
	Х	Υ	Z	Total
Gross liability	90,000	37,500	22,500	1,50,000
Less: Marked applications				
(excluding firm underwriting)	(15,000)	(30,000)	<u>(7,500)</u>	(52,500)
	75,000	7,500	15,000	97,500
Less: Unmarked applications in the ratio of gross liabilities of				
12:5:3 (excluding firm underwriting)	(13,500)	(5,625)	<u>(3,375)</u>	(22,500)
	61,500	1,875	11,625	75,000
Less : Firm underwriting	(12,000)	(4,500)	( <u>15,000)</u>	(31,500)
	49,500	(2,625)	(3,375)	43,500
Less: Surplus of Y and Z adjusted				
in X's balance (2,625+3,375)	<u>(6,000)</u>	<u>2,625</u>	<u>3,375</u>	
Net liability	43,500	-	-	43,500
Add: Firm underwriting	<u>12,000</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>31,500</u>
Total liability	<u>55,500</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>

# (ii) Calculation of amount payable to or due from underwriters

	Χ	Υ	Z	Total
Total Liability in shares	55,500	4,500	15,000	75,000
Amount receivable @ ₹ 20 from underwriter (in ₹)	11,10,000	90,000	3,00,000	15,00,000
Less: Underwriting Commission payable @ 5% of ₹ 20 (in ₹)	(90,000)	(37,500)	(22,500)	(1,50,000)
Net amount receivable (in ₹)	10,20,000	52,500	2,77,500	13,50,000

## (iii) Journal Entries in the books of the company (relating to underwriting)

			₹	₹
1.	Х	Dr.	11,10,000	
	Υ	Dr.	90,000	
	Z	Dr.	3,00,000	
	To Share Capital A/c			7,50,000
	To Securities Premium A/c			7,50,000
	(Being allotment of shares to underwriters)	_		
2.	Underwriting commission A/c	Dr.	1,50,000	
	То Х			90,000
	То Ү			37,500
	To Z			22,500
	(Being amount of underwriting commission payable)			
3.	Bank A/c	Dr.	13,50,000	
	То Х			10,20,000
	То Ү			52,500
	To Z			2,77,500
	(Being net amount received by underwriters for shares allotted less underwriting commission)			

# **SUMMARY**

- > Underwriting contracts are basically of two types:
  - Wholly underwritten if one person is responsible to subscribe all the issue.
  - Partially underwritten, when some part of the issue is considered to be underwritten by company.
  - Firm underwriting signifies a definite commitment to take up a specified number of shares irrespective of the number of shares subscribed for by the public.
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- ➤ No underwriting commission is payable on the shares taken up by the promoters, employees, directors, business associates, etc.
- Commission is payable on the whole issue underwritten.
- ➤ In case of shares, the commission paid or agreed to be paid should not exceed **5%** of the price at which the shares are issued.
- In case of debentures, the commission paid or agreed to be paid should not exceed **2.5%** of the price at which the debentures are issued.

## **TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

#### **MCQs**

- 1. For underwriting of shares, underwriters will
  - (a) Share the profits of the company.
  - (b) Share the assets of the company.
  - (c) Receive commission.
- 2. Underwriting commission for issue of debentures, shall not exceed
  - (a) 2½% of the issue price of debentures.
  - (b) 5% of the issue price of the debentures.
  - (c) 7½% of the issue price of debentures.
- 3. The underwriter is obliged to take up
  - (a) The number of shares he/ she has applied for 'firm'.
  - (b) The number of shares he is obliged to take up on the basis of the underwriting agreement.
  - (c) Both (a) and (b).
- 4. Underwriting commission payable on the shares taken up by the promoters is
  - (a) 2½% of the issue price of debentures.
  - (b) Nil.
  - (c) 5% of the issue price of the debentures.
- 5. The liability of Underwriter consists of
  - (a) Net liability as per agreement.

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- (b) Firm underwriting.
- (c) Both (a) and (b).

#### **Practical Questions**

#### **Question 1**

A joint stock company resolved to issue 10 lakh equity shares of ₹10 each at a premium of ₹1 per share. One lakh of these shares were taken up by the directors of the company, their relatives, associates and friends, the entire amount being received forthwith. The remaining shares were offered to the public, the entire amount being asked for with applications.

The issue was underwritten by X, Y and Z for a commission @2% of the issue price, 65% of the issue was underwritten by X, while Y's and Z's shares were 25% and 10% respectively. Their firm underwriting was as follows:

X 30,000 shares, Y 20,000 shares and Z 10,000 shares. The underwriters were to submit unmarked applications for shares underwritten firm with full application money along with members of the general public.

Marked applications were as follows:

X 1,19,500 shares, Y 57,500 shares and Z 10,500 shares.

Unmarked applications totaled 7,00,000 shares.

Accounts with the underwriters were promptly settled.

You are required to:

- (i) Prepare a statement calculating underwriters' liability for shares other than shares underwritten firm.
- (ii) Pass journal entries for all the transactions including cash transactions.

#### **Question 2**

Scorpio Ltd. came out with an issue of 45,00,000 equity shares of ₹10 each at a premium of ₹2 per share. The promoters took 20% of the issue and the balance was offered to the public. The issue was equally underwritten by A & Co; B & Co. and C & Co.

Each underwriter took firm underwriting of 1,00,000 shares each. Subscriptions for 31,00,000 equity shares were received with marked forms for the underwriters as given below:

		Shares
A &Co.		7,25,000
B & Co.		8,40,000
C & Co.		<u>13,10,000</u>
	Total	<u>28,75,000</u>

The underwriters are eligible for a commission of 5% on face value of shares. The entire amount towards shares subscription has to be paid alongwith application. You are required to:

- (a) Compute the underwriters' liabilities (number of shares)
- (b) Compute the amounts payable or due to underwriters; and
- (c) Pass necessary journal entries in the books of Scorpio Ltd. relating to underwriting.

# **ANSWERS/HINTS**

#### **MCQs**

[1. (c);2. (a); 3. (c); 4. (b); 5. (c)]

#### **Practical Questions**

#### **Answer 1**

# (i) Statement showing underwriters' liability for shares other than shares underwritten firm

	Χ	Υ	Z	Total
Gross liability (Issued shares – purchased by promoters, directors etc)	5,85,000	2,25,000	90,000	9,00,000
(9,00,000 shares in the ratio of 65 : 25 : 10)				
Less: Marked applications	(1,19,500)	( <u>57,500</u> )	(10,500)	( <u>1,87,500</u> )
	4,65,500	1,67,500	79,500	7,12,500
Less: Allocation of unmarked applications (including firm	(4,55,000)	(1,75,000)	(70,000)	(7,00,000)

underwriting i.e. 7,00,000) in the ratio 65 : 25 : 10				
	10,500	(7,500)	9,500	12,500
Surplus of Y allocated to X and				
Z in the ratio 65 : 10	<u>(6,500)</u>	<u>7,500</u>	(1,000)	=
Additional shares to be purchased by X & Z	<u>4,000</u>		<u>8,500</u>	<u>12,500</u>

	₹	₹	₹
Additional Liability for additional shares @ ₹11	44,000	_	93,500
Underwriting commission payable on Gross Liability			
(Shares underwritten as Gross liability × ₹11 × 2%)	(1,28,700)	(49,500)	(19,800)
Net Amount payable	(84,700)	(49,500)	-
Net Amount receivable	-	-	73,700

# (ii) Journal Entries

		Dr.	Cr.
		₹	₹
Bank A/c	Dr.	11,00,000	
To Equity Shares Application A/c			11,00,000
<ul><li>(Being application money received on 1 lakh equity shares purchased by directors etc.</li><li>@ ₹11 per share)</li></ul>			
Bank A/c	Dr.	97,62,500	
To Equity Share Application A/c			97,62,500
(Application money received on 8,87,500 equity shares @ ₹11 per share from general public and underwriters for shares			
underwritten firm)			

Equity Share Application A/c	Dr.	1,08,62,500	
X' s A/c	Dr.	44,000	
Z' s A/c	Dr.	93,500	
To Equity Share Capital A/c			1,00,00,000
To Securities Premium A/c			10,00,000
(Allotment of 10 lakh equity shares of ₹10 each at a premium of ₹1 per share)			
Underwriting commission A/c	Dr.	1,98,000	
To X's A/c			1,28,700
To Y's A/c			49,500
To Z's A/c			19,800
(Amount of underwriting commission payable to X, Y and Z @2% on the amount of shares underwritten)			
Bank A/c	Dr.	73,700	
To Z's A/c			73,700
(Amount received from Z in final settlement)			
X's A/c	Dr.	84,700	
Y's A/c	Dr.	49,500	
To Bank A/c			1,34,200
(Amount paid to X and Y in final settlement)			

## **Answer 2**

# (a) Computation of liabilities of underwriters (No. of shares):

	A &Co.	B & Co.	C & Co.
Gross liability (Total Issue – shares purchased by promoters, directors, employees etc)	12,00,000	12,00,000	12,00,000
Less: Firm underwriting	( <u>1,00,000</u> ) 11,00,000	( <u>1,00,000</u> ) 11,00,000	( <u>1,00,000</u> ) 11,00,000

Less: Marked applications	(7,25,000)	( <u>8,40,000</u> )	(13,10,000)
Unmarked applications	3,75,000	2,60,000	(2,10,000)
Less: Unmarked applications distributed to A & Co. and B & Co. in equal ratio	( <u>1,12,500</u> )	(1,12,500)	Nil
Total unmarked applications	2,62,500	1,47,500	(2,10,000)
Less: Surplus of C & Co. distributed to A &Co. and B & Co. in equal ratio	( <u>1,05,000</u> )	( <u>1,05,000</u> )	<u>2,10,000</u>
Net liability (excluding firm			
underwriting)	1,57,500	42,500	Nil
Add: Firm underwriting	1,00,000	<u>1,00,000</u>	<u>1,00,000</u>
Total liability (No. of shares)	<u>2,57,500</u>	<u>1,42,500</u>	<u>1,00,000</u>

Total Subscriptions received for 31,00,000 Shares out of which marked shares were 28,75,000/-, Hence unmarked shares received were 2,25,000 shares which will be distributed between A & Co and B & Co only equally (agreed ratio underwriting). C & Co has already exceeded the underwriting limit hence will not be required to absorb unmarked shares.

No of shares purchased by Underwriters collectively will be 5 Lakh shares as under:

Total Shares Issued	45,00,000
Less: Purchased by Promoters etc	9,00,000
Shares offered to the Publilc	36,00,000
Total Subscription received	31,00,000
Shares purchased by Underwriters including firm commitment	5,00,000

# (b) Computation of amounts payable by underwriters:

	A & Co	B & Co	C & Co
	₹	₹	₹
Liability towards shares to be subscribed @ 12 per share	30,90,000	17,10,000	12,00,000
Less: Commission (on Gross Liability)			
(5% on FV ₹ 10 each on 12 lakhs			

share	s)					(6,00,000)	(6,00,000)	(6,00,000)
Net	amount	to	be	paid	by			
unde	rwriters					<u>24,90,000</u>	<u>11,10,000</u>	<u>6,00,000</u>

# (c) In the Bo

# In the Books of Scorpio Ltd.

# **Journal Entries**

Particulars	Dr.	Cr.
	₹	₹
Underwriting commission A/c	Dr. 18,00,000	
To A &Co. A/c		6,00,000
To B & Co. A/c		6,00,000
To C & Co. A/c		6,00,000
(Being underwriting commission on the shares		
underwritten)		
A &Co. A/c	Dr. 30,90,000	
B & Co. A/c	Dr. 17,10,000	
C & Co. A/c	Dr. 12,00,000	
To Equity share capital A/c		50,00,000
To Securities premium A/c		10,00,000
(Being shares including firm underwritten shares		
allotted to underwriters)		
Bank A/c	Dr. 42,00,000	
To A &Co. A/c		24,90,000
To B & Co. A/c		11,10,000
To C & Co. A/c		6,00,000
(Being the amount received towards shares allotted to underwriters less underwriting commission due to them)		