## SOLUTIONS FOR

QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS

## CHAPTER 1

## THE INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURN

## Group 1 - Multiple Choice Questions

1. D The income tax includes elements of social and economic policy (LO 1.1)
2. C The income tax was authorized by the 16 th Amendment in 1913 (LO 1.1)
3. C The 1040A and 1040-EZ no longer exist and the 1120 is for corporations (LO 1.2)
4. D Partnerships use Form 1065 to report income tax information. A partner will report their share of income from a partnership on a Form 1040 (LO 1.2)
5. D Capital gains and losses are reported directly on the face of the Form 1040 (from Schedule D) (LO 1.2)
6. D A partnership is not generally a tax-paying entity (LO 1.2)
7. C Student loan interest is a for AGI deduction. The other responses are all itemized (from AGI) deductions (LO 1.3)
8. B The deduction for IRA contributions is a for AGI deduction (LO 1.3)
9. B $\$ 98,000-\$ 13,850$ (standard deduction is more than itemized deductions) (LO 1.3)
10. D For AGI adjustments are deducted to get to AGI (LO 1.3)
11. B The larger of the two may be deducted (LO 1.3)
12. D The QBI deduction is a from AGI deduction (LO 1.3)
13. B Filing thresholds generally are the same as the standard deduction amount (LO 1.4)
14. E Ben's income would need to exceed the standard deduction to require filing a tax return (LO 1.4)
15. $\mathrm{E} \quad \$ 27,700+\$ 1,500$ (LO 1.4)
16. C Single dependent over 65 and blind threshold is $\$ 4,950$ for unearned income (LO 1.4)
17. C Joan qualifies as either single or head of household; however, head of household is more advantageous (LO 1.5)
18. A As a cousin, Dorothy must live with Glenda to be a qualifying person for head of household (LO 1.5)
19. D Taxpayer may file married filing jointly in year of spouse's death (LO 1.5)
20. B Death of spouse is more than 2 years ago thus surviving spouse is not available (LO 1.5)
21. B Form 8867 must be completed and filed (LO 1.5)
22. E Either Margaret or her sister (but not both) may claim the mother as a dependent under a multiple support agreement (LO 1.6)
23. D The daughter fails the age test to be a qualifying child and she fails the gross income test ( $\$ 4,700$ in 2023) to be a qualifying relative (LO 1.6)
24. D The child tax credit in 2023 is $\$ 2,000$ (LO 1.6)
25. C The child tax credit for the 13 -year-old child is $\$ 2,000$. The mother is eligible for the other dependent credit of $\$ 500$ (LO 1.6)
26. B Must be age 16 or under for child tax credit (LO 1.6)
27. E Head of household standard deduction plus additional standard deduction for age 65 (\$20,800 + \$1,850) (LO 1.7)
28. B Taxpayers age 65 or older are eligible for an additional standard deduction amount (LO 1.7)
29. B Taxpayers that are blind are eligible for an additional standard deduction amount (LO 1.7)
30. D Earned income plus $\$ 400$, limited to the maximum standard deduction (LO 1.7)
31. C Earned income plus $\$ 400$ (LO 1.7)
32. D Business inventory is not considered a capital asset (LO 1.8)
33. A Gain of $\$ 15,000$ ( $\$ 25,000$ amount realized less $\$ 10,000$ adjusted basis) has been held for more than 12 months and is long-term (LO 1.8)
34. C $\$ 10,000=\$ 240,000-(\$ 270,000-\$ 40,000)$ (LO 1.8)
35. A $\$ 43,000-\$ 3,000$. Net capital losses of up to $\$ 3,000$ may be deducted from ordinary income for individual taxpayers (LO 1.8)
36. E Line 13 is the qualified business income deduction (LO 1.9)
37. $B$ Preparers must get a signed authorization to e-file from the taxpayer. (LO 1.10)
38. B About $90 \%$ of returns are filed electronically (LO 1.10)

## Group 2 - Problems

1. a. Raising revenue to operate the government.
b. Furthering economic goals such as reducing unemployment.
c. Furthering social goals such as encouraging contributions to charities. (LO 1.1)
2. a. Form 1040
b. Schedule B
c. Schedule D
d. Schedule A
e. Schedule 2
f. Schedule E
g. Schedule 3
h. Schedule C
i. Schedule 1 (LO 1.2)
3. a. $\$ 37,300=\$ 43,000+\$ 300-\$ 6,000$.
b. $\$ 27,700$, the greater of itemized deductions or the standard deduction of $\$ 27,700$.
c. $\mathbf{\$ 9 , 6 0 0}=\$ 37,300-\$ 27,700$. (LO 1.3)
4. a. $\$ 35,000$.
b. $\$ \mathbf{1 3}, \mathbf{8 5 0}$, the greater of total itemized deductions or the standard deduction amount.
c. $\mathbf{\$ 2 1 , 1 5 0}=\$ 35,000-\$ 13,850$. (LO 1.3)
5. a. $\$ 56,000=\$ 56,000+\$ 3,000-\$ 3,000(\$ 7,000$ capital loss limited to $\$ 3,000)$.
b. $\$ 13,850$
c. $\$ 42,150=\$ 56,000-\$ 13,850$. (LO 1.3 and 1.8)
6. a. $\$ 51,600=\$ 52,000+\$ 2,600-\$ 3,000$.
b. $\$ 27,700$, the greater of itemized deductions or the standard deduction of $\$ 27,700$.
c. $\mathbf{\$ 2 3 , 9 0 0}=\$ 51,600-\$ 27,700$.
d. \$2,431 (Tax Table) (LO 1.3, 1.5, and 1.7)
7. Adjusted gross income $\$ 18,000$

Less: Itemized deductions $\quad \underline{-2,400}$
Taxable income
\$15,600
Marco's tax liability from the Tax Table is $\mathbf{\$ 1 , 6 5 5}$. Note: because they are married and filing separately and Marco's spouse Tatiana itemizes her deductions, Marco must also itemize his deductions, even though the itemized deductions total is less than the standard deduction he would be otherwise entitled to. (LO 1.3, 1.5, and 1.7)
8. Adjusted gross income ( $\$ 14,200+\$ 1,450)$

Less: Standard deduction $\quad-13,850$
Taxable income

$$
\$ 1,800
$$

(LO 1.3, 1.5, and 1.7)
(Note: See Chapter 7 for the tax credit computation for dependent college students under age 24.)
9. a. $\$ \mathbf{3 5 , 1 5 0}=\$ 49,000-\$ 13,850$.
b. Tax tables. Taxpayers with income up to $\$ 100,000$ must use the tax tables.
c. $\$ 4,001$. (LO 1.3, 1.5, and 1.7)
10. a. $\$ \mathbf{6 8 , 0 0 0}=\$ 52,000+\$ 8,000+\$ 5,000+\$ 3,000$.
b. $\$ 65,250=\$ 68,000-\$ 2,750$.
c. $\mathbf{\$ 2 8 , 0 0 0}$, the greater of itemized deductions or the standard deduction of $\$ 27,700$.
d. $\$ 37,250=\$ 65,250-\$ 28,000$.
e. $\$ 4,033$ (LO 1.3, 1.5, and 1.7)
11. a. $\$ 90,500=\$ 86,700+\$ 3,800$.
b. $\$ 0$.
c. $\$ \mathbf{6 2 , 8 0 0}=\$ 90,500-\$ 27,700$ (standard deduction). $($ LO $1.3,1.5,1.6$, and 1.7$)$
12. Taxable income is: $\mathbf{\$ 2 8 , 6 5 0}=\$ 42,500-\$ 13,850$. Tax liability from the tax tables not the tax rate schedules: $\$ 3,221$. (LO 1.3, 1.5, and 1.7)
13. Yes. Since Griffin owes Social Security taxes on the unreported tips (greater than $\$ 400$ ), he must file an income tax return. (LO 1.4)
14. a. Yes. Income is more than the $\$ 20,800$ standard deduction. (See Figure 1.1)
b. Yes. Unearned income was more than $\$ 1,250$. Also, gross income of $\$ 2,900$ is more than the larger of $\$ 1,250$ or $\$ 2,000$ (earned income of $\$ 1,600$ plus $\$ 400$ ). (See Figure 1.2)
c. No. Their income is under the $\$ 29,200$ standard deduction [ $\$ 27,700+\$ 1,500$ (over 65 years old)]. (See Figure 1.1)
d. Yes. Gross income is greater than $\$ 27,700$, the 2023 standard deduction. (See Figure 1.1)
e. Yes. His earnings exceeded the $\$ 400$ limit for self-employed persons. (See Figure 1.3) (LO 1.4.)
15. a. Allen $\$ 2,441 . \$ 36,000-\$ 13,850=\$ 22,150$
b. Boyd $\$ 2,705 . \$ 38,200-\$ 13,850=\$ 24,350$
c. Caldwell $\$ 3,919 . \$ 64,020-\$ 27,700=\$ 36,320$
d. Dell $\$ 3,301 . \$ 50,922-\$ 20,800=\$ 30,122$
e. Evans $\$ \mathbf{5 , 2 4 6} \mathbf{\$ 5 9 , 0 0 3 - \$ 1 3 , 8 5 0 = \$ 4 5 , 1 5 3 ( L O ~ 1 . 5 ) ~}$
16. a. A Kayla does not meet the requirements of a qualifying person for head of household because she is not a related person and did not live in Linda's home.
b. A The significant other is not a qualifying person as this individual is not one of the relatives that can be considered a qualifying person for head of household.
c. A or D Head of household is likely preferable. The brother is a qualifying person that lives for than one-half the year in the abode.
d. B or C MFJ can be claimed in the year of the spouse's death and is probably preferable.
e. A, D or E Surviving spouse is likely to be preferable but single or head of household are also possible. (LO 1.5 and 1.6)
17. a. Because their income exceeds $\$ 100,000$, the tax rate schedules must be used.
b. $\$ 13,935=\$ 10,294+22 \% \times(\$ 106,000-\$ 89,450)$. (LO 1.5)
18. Jonas needs to meet the requirements to be a qualified person. Both depend on classification as a dependent as either a qualified child or qualified relative. The overall tests should be applied first:

1. Can Jonas be claimed as a dependent by any other taxpayer?
2. Is Jonas married and does he file a tax return jointly with his spouse for any reason other than to get a refund?
3. Is Jonas a U.S. citizen or resident alien?
4. Does Jonas have a valid Social Security number?

The next set of questions are related to qualifying child status:

1. Relationship test: Confirm Jonas' relationship to Karl.
2. Domicile test: Where did Jonas live during the tax year? Was it more than one-half of the year with Karl?
3. Age test: What is Jonas' age and is he a full-time student? Is Jonas older than Karl?
4. Support test: How much of Jonas' support is provided by Jonas? Is it more than one-half?

If Jonas is a qualifying child, then he need not meet the citizenship test to be a qualifying person for head of household filing status. If Jonas is not a qualifying child, he might be a qualifying relative which would prompt the following questions:

1. Relationship or member of household test: If Jonas is Karl's brother, this test has been confirmed in the qualifying child questions. If Jonas is not one of the qualifying relatives, the remaining tests need not apply since a person that is a qualifying relative by living in the taxpayer's household is not a qualifying person for purposes of the head of household test.

The following test need only be applied if Jonas is not Karl's brother but is a qualifying relative for reasons other than living in Karl's home:
2. Gross income test: What is Jonas' 2023 income? Is it less than $\$ 4,500$ ?
3. Support test: Does Karl provide more than one-half of Jonas' support?

Karl's tax return should include Form 8867. (LO 1.5 and 1.6)
19. Head of household. Maggie's parents meet the requirements of a qualified person. Maggie is single. Additionally, she provides a home for her parents. Parents are an exception to the requirement that dependents must live in the same household as the taxpayer to qualify the taxpayer for head of household status. (LO 1.5 and 1.6)
20. Single. Unmarried with no dependent.

Head of household. Single or abandoned spouse, with qualifying person.
Surviving spouse [qualified widow(er)]. Spouse died within the past 2 years and has a qualifying dependent. (LO 1.5)
21. a. Yes, his son qualifies as a dependent, meeting the tests of a qualifying relative.
b. No. To be a qualifying person, his son must live in the same household as Marquez, so Marquez cannot use the head of household filing status. (LO 1.5 and 1.6)
22. Dependent?
a. Yes
b. No (must be below $\$ 4,700$ gross income test)
c. Yes
d. Yes
e. No

## Amount of Credit

\$500 other dependent credit
\$0
$\$ 2,000$ child tax credit
\$500 other dependent credit
\$0 (LO 1.6)
23. \$0. Exemptions were suspended for tax years 2018-2025. \$2,500. The 11-year-old child qualifies for the $\$ 2,000$ child tax credit (under age 17). The 17-year-old qualifies for the other dependent credit of $\$ 500$. (LO 1.6)
24. No. Because Charles is self-supporting, his parents may not claim him as a dependent. The self-support test is applied to both children and relatives who otherwise qualify, so Charles is disqualified either way. (LO 1.6)
25. No. Phillip cannot be claimed as a dependent because he is not a U.S. citizen or a resident of the U.S., Canada, or Mexico. (LO 1.6)
26. The standard deduction is a specific dollar amount that varies with filing status, age and vision, but not by type of individual deduction. Total itemized deductions depend on the amount and type of items, with some items having limitations based on AGI. They include medical expenses, certain taxes, certain interest expenses, charitable contributions and miscellaneous deductions.
A taxpayer should claim the larger of the standard deduction or the total allowed itemized deductions to reduce the taxpayer's income subject to tax as much as possible. (LO 1.7)
27. i. The "statutory" amount of $\$ 1,250$.
ii. The earned income of the dependent plus $\$ 400$
iii. The "typical" standard deduction for a taxpayer of that filing status (e.g., \$13,850 for a single taxpayer that is under age 65 and not blind) (LO 1.7)
28. A spouse in a married filing separate situation when the other spouse is itemizing; most nonresident aliens; an individual filing a short-year return. (LO 1.7)

(LO 1.8)
30. The answer will vary depending on the date the problem is assigned and completed. The purpose of the problem is to familiarize the student with the IRS website. (LO 1.9)
31. Form 8949 is Sales and Other Dispositions of Capital Assets. (LO 1.9)
32. A number of articles in the blog indicate the limit for student loan interest deduction is $\mathbf{\$ 2 , 5 0 0}$. (LO 1.9)
33. The title of Section 10.33 of Circular 230 is Best Practices for Tax Advisors. (LO 1.9)
34. ChatGPT responses can change based on data availablility and continued learning by the LLM. A recent response is: I'm sorry, but I don't have access to real-time data as my knowledge cutoff date is September 2021. Tax laws and regulations can change from year to year, and I do not have information on the standard deduction for the year 2023. To find the most up-to-date information on the standard deduction for a single taxpayer in 2023, I recommend checking the official website of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or consulting with a tax professional. They will have the most current and accurate information regarding tax deductions and rates for the current tax year. (LO 1.9)
35. Tax returns are electronically signed through the use of a PIN. PINs can be generated by either the taxpayer or by the ERO. Self-selected PINs require the prior year AGI or PIN to authenticate the taxpayer. Before a PIN can be created by the ERO, the preparer must obtain a signed copy of an IRS E-file signature authorization (Forms 8878 or 8879). (LO 1.10)
36. Form 8453, copies of Forms W-2, W-2G, and 1099-R, a copy of the consent to disclose tax information form, a copy of the electronic return that could be retransmitted, an acknowledgment file for IRS accepted returns, Forms 8878 and 8879. (LO 1.10)

## Group 3 - Writing Assignments

## 1. Research Solution:

Whittenburg and Gill, CPAs
San Diego, CA
February 20, 20xx
Mr. and Mrs. William Carson
3276 Lakeline Drive
San Diego, CA
Dear William and Sheila,
Thank you for requesting my advice concerning the tax treatment of your brother Jerry. I have researched your question and am sorry to say that you cannot claim Jerry as a qualifying child.
Although Jerry meets the domicile, age, joint return, citizenship, and self-support test, he does not meet the relationship test. Even though he is William's brother, in order to be your qualifying child, he must be younger than at least one of you.

Although you cannot claim Jerry as a qualifying child, there is a possibility that you could claim him as a qualifying relative if he earns less than $\$ 4,700$.
My conclusion is based upon the facts that you have provided me. I'm sorry that the news was not more favorable. If you have any questions or would like further explanation, please do not hesitate to call me.
Sincerely,
Trevor Malcolm
for Whittenburg and Gill, CPAs
2. Ethics Solution:

To: JasonandMary@email.com
Subject: Inquiry on filing status: single v. married filing jointly
Jason and Mary,
Thank you for your e-mail regarding your filing status for 2023. Let me also say, I really enjoyed your wedding ceremony and reception. Thank you for inviting me.
Your e-mail stated that you had prepared your 2023 taxes as both single and married filing jointly and found that your refund would be larger if both of you filed as single. Unfortunately, the tax law is very clear on this issue. Individuals who are married as of the last day of the tax year are considered to be married. Married taxpayers have only two filing status options: married filing jointly or married filing separately. In order to file as single, taxpayers must be unmarried or legally separated from their spouse as of the last day of the tax year. Not only would it be unethical for you to file as single, it would be against the law.
The additional tax that married couples sometimes encounter is known as the "marriage penalty." Hopefully you are finding that your wedded bliss outweighs the tax penalty! If you have any questions or would like further explanation, please do not hesitate to call me.
Your friend,
Trevor Malcolm
For Whittenburg and Gill, CPAs

## Group 4 - Comprehensive Problems

1A. See Pages 1-7 and 1-8.
1B. See Pages 1-9 to 1-11.
2A. See Pages 1-12 and 1-13.
2B. See Pages 1-14 and 1-15.

## Group 5 - Cumulative Software Problem

The solution to the Cumulative Software Problem is posted on the website for the textbook at www.cengage.com/login.

## Comprehensive Problem 1A



Comprehensive Problem 1A, cont.


Comprehensive Problem 1B


Comprehensive Problem 1B, cont.

(a) Single Standard deduction of $\$ 13,950+\$ 1,850$ additional standard deduction for being over age 65

Comprehensive Problem 1B, cont.


## Comprehensive Problem 2A



## Comprehensive Problem 2A, cont.



## Comprehensive Problem 2B



Comprehensive Problem 2B, cont.


# Key Number Tax Return Summary 

Chapter 1

Comprehensive Problem 1A

| Adjusted Gross Income (Line 11) | 23,672 |
| ---: | :---: |
| Taxable Income (Line 15) | 9,822 |
| Total Tax (Line 24) | 983 |
| Tax Refund (Line 35a) | 221 |

Comprehensive Problem 1B

| Adjusted Gross Income (Line 11) | 23,672 |  |
| ---: | :---: | :---: |
| Standard Deduction or Itemized Deductions (Line 12) | 15,700 |  |
|  | Total Tax (Line 24) | 798 |
|  | Tax Refund (Line 35a) | 406 |

Comprehensive Problem 2A

| Adjusted Gross Income (Line 11) | 54,300 |  |
| ---: | :--- | ---: |
| Standard Deduction or Itemized Deductions (Line 12) | 27,700 |  |
|  | Total Tax (Line 24) | 2,255 |
| Amount Overpaid (Line 34) | 954 |  |

Comprehensive Problem 2B

| Adjusted Gross Income (Line 11) | 61,972 |
| ---: | :---: |
| Standard Deduction or Itemized Deductions (Line 12) | 20,800 |
| Credit for Other Dependents (Line 19) |  500 <br>  Total Tax (Line 24) <br>  4,127 <br>   Amount Overpaid (Line 34) |

