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Follow the latest daily buzz with [buzzFeed Daily Newsletter!](#) The opinions expressed by the participants of the entrepreneurs are their own. Is it possible for corporate conscience to coexist with a large yield? Or is the idea of a profitable, socially conscious company a contradiction? This may well be the corporate dilemma of the digital age. Today's corporations are responsible for increasing shareholder returns and maximizing profits during each reporting period. Because of this duty, some may argue that corporations, by necessity, cannot afford to look past their bottom line. Everything else, these lawyers often claim, is just an outsider mission arrived. But, frankly, this way of thinking is not only misguided, but also short-sighted and harmful. In an age of social media where information flows faster than ever before, it is in fact the case that being a good corporate citizen pays dividends - both the corporation itself as well as society as a whole. In short, acting in a socially responsible manner is actually good for business. Related: [Why should your business care about social responsibility?](#) What is corporate citizenship? Corporations, in a legal sense, are human. It can own property and assets, and in case of illegal actions to be responsible in a legal forum. In many countries, the idea of corporation as citizens has been adopted in order to empower businessmen. Seeing them as living creatures, legislators granted them the rights to violations such as unreasonable searches and confiscation. Corporate citizenship, on the other hand, is the notion that corporations have obligations to society as a whole, not just to investors, employees or clients. These responsible companies are socially and ethically minded, usually taking on worthy causes from environmental issues to public issues. There is a range of corporate citizenship. At the most basic level, companies can comply with health and safety legislation, but have little in terms of leadership, vision or meaningful goals. In the next phase, companies are developing a basic policy that goes beyond the law and the task managers to ensure compliance with these basic procedures. In its most integrated, good corporate citizens take ethical and social responsibilities in every part of their business and model, allowing it to stimulate sales growth, expand into new markets and stimulate revenue. Related: [When to be socially responsible to hurt your business?](#) Does corporate citizenship help your company? Most companies are trapped in the first phase, probably due to inflexible mentalities, as well as all too common misconceptions, social and ethical responsibility will hurt profits. A recent Bank of America study has yielded mixed results. Researchers found that technology, healthcare and consumer goods companies that scored high on environmental, social and governance (ESG) are underperforming their peers on in the short term. At the same time, however, the study also showed that companies with high ESG performance were more stable and provided higher future profits in each industry. However, the study also found that the myth of expensive corporate citizenship is still alive: most investors neglected ESG's investment criteria, believing that such measures were meaningless. BoA's research is flawed in one sense: it makes no sense to judge a company by its ESG assessment because ESG is fatally flawed. On the one hand, the ESG criteria are lumps in management, which relates to how an organization is managed. Why, as one investor writes, is management included in the standard that defines corporate responsibility? This is not entirely relevant to whether a corporation incorporates sustainability into its business model or equips its facilities with renewable energy sources. Indeed, when research leaves part of the equation out of management, they conclude that socially minded organizations work better. One 2011 study found that there was a significant positive relationship between ethical behavior and financial performance, including increased profitability, improved efficiency and cheaper capital. Others noted that during a crisis, a firm's good reputation could help protect it from further losses. In the 1980s, for example, bottles of Tylenol, a popular painkiller, were found. Johnson and Johnson, the parent company, saved the product from constant stigma by voluntarily recalling the product. What could have been a disaster has actually cemented J.J.'s strong ethical reputation. On the other hand, Nike is known for sweatshop labor and has suffered serious losses due to boycotts and negative advertising. Although the backlash arose in the early 2000s, the problem appears to be continuing. Just last year, Nike faced a series of student protests in cities from India to Latin America to the United States. Related: [Politically charged boycotts Explain, from Uber to Under Armour](#) What consumers say? In addition to returning shareholders, corporate responsibility has ancillary advantages that can reduce the cost of doing business. On the one hand, a strong, ethical reputation can reduce staff turnover by up to 50 percent, saving money and time that would otherwise be spent on hiring and training replacements. The reason for this lies in the millennial psyche. A survey after the survey found that millennials prioritize environmental and social responsibility over other traits. This applies to both employment and consumption: 62 per cent of millennials will have a pay cut to work for a socially responsible organisation, while 81 per cent of expected companies promise their corporate citizenship. But it's not just millennials; Polling giant Nielsen found that 72 percent of respondents aged 15 to 20 are willing to pay more for groceries from out positive social and environmental impacts. This applies to older people: 51 per cent of people aged 50-64 were willing to pay extra, which is seven percentage points more than in 2014. Related: [Corporate social responsibility can be a competitive advantage, so where is your CSR program?](#) Example: Danone To further dispel any lingering doubts that companies cannot be responsible and valuable, look no further than Danone, the French multinational food corporation. First, Danone is profitable. In 2017, the company achieved an impressive growth of 14.2 percent and is expected to continue this trend in 2018. Its shares remain a perennial favorite in the buy lists of many investment observers, thanks to impressive dividends and strong, long-term sustainability. But more than that, Danone remains an impressively ethical organization, especially in terms of how it treats employees. On the one hand, the company has a strong parental policy allowing parents who are primary caregivers to take up to 18 weeks of fully paid leave, while foster parents can take 14 weeks. In addition, Danone provides generous parental benefits, including antenatal leave, nursing rooms for mothers, back-work programs, and flexible working conditions. This spirit extends to their external initiatives. In 2017, Danone issued 300 million euros (\$352 million) in bonds to support socially impacted projects, including investments in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in healthy eating; Support for responsible agriculture and agriculture; and pledged to avoid GMOs in food. Danone also acquired WhiteWave Foods in 2016, a major producer of healthy foods such as soy and organic milk. From this merger, Danone North America Was born: As a benefit corporation, Danone North America is dedicated to creating a positive impact on society by design, with progress measured by external, third-party organizations. Today Danone North America is the largest public benefit corporation in the United States and has made efforts to invest in soil health and sustainable agriculture and have helped incubate foodtech startups. Companies like Danone demonstrate the misleading age-old myth that a zero-sum business is a zero-sum game where shareholder victory comes at the expense of everyone else, whether consumers or the environment. In truth, reliable corporate citizenship is crucial to making a profit, especially in today's increasingly interconnected, information-heavy world. Trying something else is a risk of boycotts, public rejection and, ultimately, recession. You're not stuck in traffic. You're moving, you're one of the many people feeling pretty concerned right now as the fate of American democracy hangs in the balance, you might find yourself suddenly very interested in reading at all and all Canadian Canadian Policy. Alas, that cracked research project turns out to be more complicated than usual as the website of Canada's Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, suddenly flooded with traffic, has been down for much of the evening. Some funny facts about Canada: English is one of its official languages. It has the 15th largest GDP in the world, its prime minister is fiendishly beautiful. People who already live there seem to be delightfully happy and optimistic. If you're so inclined, feel free to try it yourself here! Also, if you are able to pass, please DM me. In the meantime, I'll be quietly cleaning up my blog history, hoarding canned goods, and burying my savings in the backyard. Before immigrants to the United States seeking citizenship can take the oath of U.S. citizenship and begin to enjoy the benefits of citizenship, they must pass a naturalization test administered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The test consists of two parts: a citizenship test and an English language test. In these tests, applicants for citizenship, with certain exceptions for age and physical impairment, are expected to demonstrate that they can read, write and speak words in normal daily use in English, and that they have basic knowledge and understanding of American history, government and traditions. For most applicants, the most challenging part of the naturalization test is the citizenship test, which assesses the applicant's knowledge of basic government knowledge and U.S. history. In the civilian part of the test, applicants ask up to 10 questions on the American government, history and integrated civic, like geography, symbolism and holidays. 10 questions are randomly selected from a list of 100 questions prepared by USCIS. While many of the 100 questions may have more than one acceptable answer, the citizenship test is not a multiple-choice test. The citizenship test is an oral test that is conducted during a naturalization interview. In order to pass the civilian part of the test, applicants must correctly answer at least six (6) of the 10 randomly selected questions. In October 2008, USCIS replaced an old set of 100 civilian test questions used from its old INS days, with a new set of questions in an attempt to improve the percentage of applicants taking the test. The English language test has three parts: spoken language, reading and writing. The applicant's ability to speak English is assessed by a USCIS officer in a one-on-one interview, during which the applicant completes the naturalization application, Form N-400. During the test, the applicant will have to understand and respond to the instructions and that the USCIS employee speaks to. Reading The applicant must read one of the three sentences correctly to pass. In the written test, the applicant must correctly write one of the three sentences. Applicants are given two chances to take Tests in English and Citizenship. Candidates who fail to pass any part of the test during the first interview will only be retested at the test stage they failed within 60-90 days. While applicants who do not pass the re-examination are denied the right to naturalization, they retain their status as legal permanent residents. If they still want to obtain U.S. citizenship, they must reapply for naturalization and pay off all related fees. The current (2016) naturalization fee in the U.S. is \$680, including an \$85 biometric fee for fingerprinting and identification services. However, applicants 75 years of age and older are not charged a biometric fee, bringing their total fee to \$595. USCIS reports that as of June 2012, the average total processing time for naturalization applications in the United States was 4.8 months. If this seems a long time, consider that in 2008, processing time averaged 10-12 months and were as long as 16-18 months in the past. Because of their age and time as legal permanent residents of the U.S., some applicants are exempt from the English naturalization test requirement and may be allowed to take a civil language test of their choice. In addition, seniors who have certain medical conditions can apply for a non-naturalization test. Applicants aged 50 and over when they applied for naturalization and lived as a legal permanent resident (green card holder) in the United States for 20 years are exempt from the English language requirement. Applicants age 55 and older when they applied for naturalization and lived as a legal permanent resident (green card holder) in the United States for 15 years are exempt from the English language requirement. Although they may be exempt from the English language requirement, all senior entrants are required to take a civil test but may be allowed to take it in their native language. Full information about exceptions to naturalization tests can be found on the USCIS' Website Exceptions and Accommodation. According to USCIS, more than 1,980,000 naturalization tests were conducted across the country between October 1, 2009 and June 30, 2012. USCIS reported that by June 2012, the total nationwide pass rate for all applicants for English language and citizenship tests was 92%. In 2008, USCIS reworked the naturalization test. The purpose of the reorganization was to improve overall pass rates by providing a more unified and testing experience by effectively assessing the applicant's knowledge of U.S. history and government. Data from the USCIS Study Of Passage/Fail Rates for Naturalization Applicants show that the passing course is for Acceptance of the new test is significantly higher than the pass rate for applicants taking the old test. According to the report, the average annual passing score for the overall naturalization test improved from 87.1% in 2004 to 95.8% in 2010. The average annual pass score for the English test improved from 90.0% in 2004 to 97.0% in 2010, while the civics pass rate improved from 94.2% to 97.5%. 97.5%.

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