Listen to the recording and decide whether the following sentences are true (T) or false (F).

1. Sole traders are the most complex form of business ownership.
2. In some countries, professionals like doctors can only form partnerships with unlimited liability.
3. Limited companies protect investors from losing more than their initial investment.
4. Private companies can freely offer shares to the public.
5. A public limited company in the UK is equivalent to a corporation in the US.
6. The Memorandum of Association outlines the rights and duties of directors.
7. Annual financial statements of companies are accessible to the public.

Discussion questions:

1. How do you perceive the role of individual proprietorships in today's economy compared to larger business structures?
2. What personal experiences have shaped your understanding of partnerships and their dynamics in a business context?
3. In what ways do you think limited liability influences entrepreneurial risk-taking among small business owners?
4. How important do you believe it is for entrepreneurs to understand the legal implications of different business structures?
5. Can you share an instance where you witnessed the impact of bankruptcy on a small business or its owner?
6. How does access to capital affect the growth potential of small enterprises in your community?
7. What are your thoughts on the balance between responsibility and risk in forming partnerships versus limited companies?
8. Have you ever considered starting your own business, and if so, what type of structure would you choose and why?
9. How do you think public perception of private companies differs from that of public limited companies?
10. In your opinion, what qualities make a successful founder when establishing a new company?

The phrases written in bold in the following sentences have been mixed up. Correct them.

1. As a **shareholder**, he found it challenging to balance his responsibilities during the annual general meetings due to his limited resources.
2. The company reported significant **legal entity** last year, which was a matter of concern raised by numerous shareholders during the **stock exchange**.
3. The newly established company was recognised as a **memorandum of association**, allowing it to operate independently and hold its own annual general meetings.
4. The board presented the company’s **bylaws** at the annual general meeting, providing a clear picture of its financial health to the shareholders.
5. Investors often hesitate to participate in ventures with **losses**, particularly when evaluating the risks discussed at the annual general meetings.
6. The **annual general meeting** regulations require that companies disclose their financial results during the annual general meetings, ensuring transparency for investors.
7. The **dividend** was reviewed in detail at the annual general meeting to clarify the company’s objectives and operational framework.
8. Amendments to the **assets** were proposed during the annual general meeting to enhance governance and operational efficiency within the organisation.
9. Prior to the annual general meeting, the team prepared comprehensive **shareholders** to provide **annual financial statements** with a thorough insight into performance.
10. Each **sole trader** was given ample opportunity to voice concerns regarding company direction and strategy during the annual general meeting.
11. Discussions about the proposed **venture capitalists** distribution captivated the audience, sparking lively debates during the annual general meeting.
12. The presence of **unlimited liability** at the annual general meeting highlighted the increasing interest in funding innovative projects within the industry.

Fill in the gaps in the following sentences with the phrases written in italics.

public limited company stakeholders proxy prospectus quorum shareholders auditor annual report limited liability partnership

1. The proposal to convert the business into a ……………………………….. was a central topic of discussion at the recent annual general meeting.
2. Many private companies struggle to meet the transparency requirements demanded by ……………………………….. during their annual general meetings.
3. A ……………………………….. is required to hold an annual general meeting where ……………………………….. can discuss critical corporate matters and future strategies.
4. The ……………………………….. outlined significant achievements and challenges faced over the past year and was distributed to all attendees at the annual general meeting.
5. Attendees were encouraged to appoint a ………………………………., allowing them to vote on key decisions during the annual general meeting despite their absence.
6. A minimum……………………………….. was established so the annual general meeting could proceed with voting on essential resolutions concerning the company's future.
7. An external ……………………………….. was invited to present findings from the previous year's accounts at the annual general meeting, ensuring transparency and accountability.
8. The……………………………….. detailing the future direction of the company was highlighted as a crucial document during discussions at the annual general meeting.

Watch the video and choose the correct answers.

1. What is the primary purpose of holding an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in a cooperative?
   A. To elect the board of directors
   B. To approve the financial statements
   C. To gather member feedback and input
   D. To make major decisions on the cooperative's operations

2. How often must a cooperative hold an AGM according to the law?
   A. Once a year
   B. Once every 2 years
   C. Once every 6 months
   D. As needed by the board of directors

3. What should the board of directors do during the AGM to encourage member participation?
   A. Provide detailed presentations on the cooperative's activities
   B. Strictly adhere to an agenda and limit time for questions
   C. Openly invite questions and feedback from members
   D. Discourage members from voicing concerns or opinions

4. If the required quorum is not met at the start of an AGM, what should the chairperson do?
   A. Proceed with the meeting regardless
   B. Adjourn the meeting to another date
   C. Call for a vote to waive the quorum requirement
   D. Allow the board to make decisions on behalf of members

5. Which of the following is NOT a mandatory item of business at the AGM?
   A. Approving the minutes of the previous meeting
   B. Electing new directors to the board
   C. Presenting the annual financial report
   D. Deciding on the cooperative's future strategic direction

6. How often should the cooperative review its rules and governing documents?
   A. Every 3 months
   B. Every 6 months
   C. Annually
   D. Only when major changes are needed

7. What is the minimum notice period required to call a general meeting to remove a director?
   A. 7 days
   B. 14 days
   C. 21 days
   D. 28 days