

APM Project Management Qualification – Examination paper

General Notes

Time allowed **3 hours + 15 minutes** reading time.

You must also enter your candidate number and test code on your examination script.

Only answer 10 questions

There are 16 questions, each question carries equal marks. **Use ink**, not pencil, to answer all questions.

On completion of the examination:

- Please collate your answer sheets into **question number order**.
- Complete the table to your right and secure this question paper and your answers with the tag provided.

Candidate number	
Exam date	
Exam location	
Test code	
Reference	Sample paper

Question number	Number of pages	Office use only	Question number	Number of pages	Office use only

Do not open this paper until instructed by the invigilator.

All candidate markings on the question paper will be disregarded unless specifically stated otherwise.

This question paper must not be removed from the examination room.

ALL CANDIDATES MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION	
APM shares your results with your training provider.	
If applicable, please enter your current employer here: <i>This is for statistical monitoring only and we will not share your personal details with your employer.</i>	
We look after your data carefully; please ask for our privacy policy or search for it at www.apm.org.uk for more detail. We'd like to send you information about us, project management and our products and services. You can tell us how you'd like to receive information online or by calling us, and opt out at any time:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes please – I'd like you to keep me up to date	<input type="checkbox"/> No thanks – only send me essential information

UNREGISTERED CANDIDATES MUST ALSO COMPLETE THIS SECTION			
*First name		*Last name	
*Email address			
<i>*All are mandatory fields in order to process your examination script and issue your results.</i>			

Please take note of the command verbs in each question.

Verb	Definition
<i>Differentiate</i>	Recognise or determine what makes something different.
<i>Describe</i>	Give an account, including all the relevant characteristics, qualities and events.
<i>Explain</i>	Give an account of the purpose(s) or reason(s).
<i>Interpret</i>	Translate information/data into another form to aid understanding, to demonstrate understanding or to inform a future action.
<i>Outline/state</i>	Set out the main points/characteristics.

SAMPLE

Question 1

Learning Outcome Understand risk and issue management in the context of project management.

Question part (a) Explain two steps in the risk management process and why each is important.

Marks 20 marks (10 marks each)

Question part (b) Explain three key benefits of risk management for projects.

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 2

Learning Outcome Understand how organisations and projects are structured.

Question part (a) Describe two benefits of having an embedded project management office.

Marks 20 marks (10 marks each)

Question part (b) Explain three differences between the following types of organisational structure:

- Functional
- Matrix

Ensure you compare both within each of your differences.

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 3

Learning Outcome Understand project procurement.

Question part (a) Explain two content sections of a procurement strategy and why each is important.

Marks 20 marks (10 marks each)

Question part (b) Explain three steps in the supplier selection process, for a project, and why each is important.

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 4

Learning Outcome Understand planning for success.

Question part (a) When developing a project management plan in an iterative lifecycle, explain two things that need to be taken into account to arrive at the deployment baseline and why each is important.

Marks 20 marks (10 marks each)

Question part (b) From the four estimating methods below, explain three different methods and why each is important:

- Parametric
- Analogous
- Analytical
- Delphi

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 5

Learning Outcome Understand communication within project management.

Question part (a) **State four sources of conflict within a project.**

Marks 20 marks (5 marks each)

Question part (b) **Explain three benefits of a communication plan to a project.**

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 6

Learning Outcome Understand project life cycles.

Question part (a) **Explain two reasons why projects are structured in phases in a linear project life cycle.**

Marks 20 marks (10 marks each)

Question part (b) **Explain three differences between linear and iterative life cycles. Ensure you compare both within each of your differences.**

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 7

Learning Outcome Understand schedule and resource optimisation.

Question part (a) **Describe two elements that need to be considered when allocating resources to a schedule in a project following a linear life cycle.**

Marks 20 marks (10 marks each)

Question part (b) **Explain three key differences between resource smoothing and resource leveling. Ensure you compare both within each of your differences.**

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 8

Learning Outcome Understand the situational context of projects.

Question part (a) **Explain two key differences between projects and business as usual. Ensure you compare both within each of your differences.**

Marks 20 marks (10 marks each)

Question part (b) **Provide one explanation for how a project professional can assess a project's context against each of the following, and why this is important:**

- PESTLE
- SWOT
- VUCA

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 9

Learning Outcome Understand the principles of leadership and teamwork.

Question part (a) **Describe two characteristics of an effective team.**

Marks 20 marks (10 marks each)

Question part (b) **Explain three reasons why it might be necessary to change leadership styles to ensure effective management during a project.**

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 10

Learning Outcome Understand how organisations and projects are structured.

Question part (a) **Select two phases of the project life cycle and explain how the roles of project manager and project sponsor differ during those two phases. Ensure you compare both within each of your chosen phases.**

Marks 20 marks (10 marks each)

Question part (b) **Select three of the project roles below and describe their responsibilities during the project:**

- Users
- Project team members
- Project steering group
- Product owner

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 11

Learning Outcome Understand project scope management.

Question part (a) **Explain two steps in a configuration management process that help to manage the scope of a project and why each of these steps is important.**

Marks 20 marks (10 marks each)

Question part (b) **Explain three steps in a requirements management process that help to establish the scope of a project and why each of these steps is important.**

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 12

Learning Outcome Understand communication within project management.

Question part (a) **Explain** how understanding BATNA and ZOPA can help plan and conduct negotiations, and why BATNA and ZOPA are important for negotiations.

Marks 20 marks (10 marks each)

Question part (b) **Explain three** ways in which conflicts can be addressed and why each way may be appropriate.

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 13

Learning Outcome Understand project life cycles.

Question part (a) **Outline four** ways in which outputs of knowledge management can inform decision making.

Marks 20 marks (5 marks each)

Question part (b) **Explain three** reasons why a project may close early.

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 14

Learning Outcome Understand quality in the context of a project.

Question part (a) **Explain two** purposes of quality planning for a project.

Marks 20 marks (10 marks each)

Question part (b) **Explain three key differences** between quality control and quality assurance when managing a project. Ensure you compare both within each of your differences.

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 15

Learning Outcome Understand the situational context of projects.

Question part (a) **Outline four** reasons why a programme would be used to deliver strategic change as opposed to using a project.

Marks 20 marks (5 marks each)

Question part (b) **Explain three** ways in which failure to comply with laws and regulations can impact on project delivery, including why it is important to comply with laws and regulations within each explanation?

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

Question 16

Learning Outcome Understand planning for success.

Question part (a) Explain how the following **two** investment appraisal techniques can be used to assess the validity of a project and why each is important:

- Internal Rate of Return (IRR)
- Net Present Value (NPV)

Marks 20 marks (10 marks each)

Question part (b) Explain the following **three** steps in an information management process and why each of these is important:

- Collection
- Storage
- Dissemination

Marks 30 marks (10 marks each)

End of questions

Notes

SAMPLE



**We are the only chartered membership
organisation for the project profession**

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