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## CIPS Managing Teams and Individuals Sample Questions (Q30-Q35):

### NEW QUESTION # 30

Describe four types of culture that can exist within an organisation (20 points)

#### Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Organisational culture refers to the shared values, beliefs, norms and behaviours that shape "the way things are done" in a workplace. One of the most widely used models is Charles Handy's four types of organisational culture, which describe different ways in which organisations can operate.

The first is the Power Culture. In this type, authority is concentrated at the centre, usually with a strong leader or small group of individuals. Decisions are made quickly, and personal influence is key. This culture can be dynamic and decisive but may create dependency on the leader and limit employee autonomy. In procurement, a power culture might mean senior management unilaterally deciding supplier strategies without consulting the wider team.

The second is the Role Culture. Here, the organisation is highly structured with clear roles, rules, and procedures. Power comes from position rather than personality. Stability and order are prioritised, making it efficient in predictable environments. However, it can be rigid and resistant to change. In procurement, this culture might be seen in public sector bodies where strict compliance, policies, and audit controls dominate purchasing activities.

The third is the Task Culture. This type is project-oriented, with teams formed to solve problems or deliver objectives. Power is based on expertise, and collaboration is valued. It is flexible, innovative, and well-suited to dynamic environments, but can cause conflict if resources are limited. In procurement, task culture is often evident in cross-functional category teams formed to deliver strategic sourcing projects.

The fourth is the Person Culture. Here, the focus is on individuals rather than the organisation. Employees see themselves as more important than the structure, and autonomy is prioritised. This is rare in large organisations but can be found in professional partnerships such as law or consultancy firms. In procurement, a person culture may appear where highly specialised experts operate independently, sometimes resisting organisational control.

In conclusion, Handy's four types of culture - power, role, task, and person - each offer strengths and weaknesses. Effective managers must understand the prevailing culture in their organisation and adapt their leadership approach. In procurement and supply, recognising cultural influences is vital to building cohesive teams, aligning strategies, and driving ethical and sustainable practices.

### NEW QUESTION # 31

Explain what is meant by a heterogeneous / diverse workforce and explain one personality model that a manager could use to investigate the personalities within his/her team (25 points)

#### Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

A heterogeneous or diverse workforce refers to a group of employees with varied characteristics, backgrounds, and perspectives. Diversity can relate to visible differences such as age, gender, ethnicity, or disability, as well as invisible factors like personality, values, experiences, and thinking styles. A diverse workforce is valuable because it brings multiple perspectives, creativity, and innovation, which can improve decision-making and problem-solving. However, it can also create challenges in communication, conflict management, and team cohesion if not managed effectively.

In procurement and supply management, diversity can mean having team members from different professional disciplines, cultural backgrounds, or experience levels. This mix can lead to better supplier negotiations, innovation in category strategies, and greater sensitivity to global ethical standards. For managers, the challenge lies in understanding and leveraging individual differences to build cohesive, high-performing teams.

One useful personality model for understanding team members is the Big Five Personality Traits (OCEAN model). This model is widely accepted in psychology and provides a framework for identifying personality differences across five dimensions:

Openness to Experience - measures creativity, curiosity, and willingness to try new things. In procurement, high openness could support innovation in supplier strategies.

Conscientiousness - relates to organisation, responsibility, and dependability. A conscientious buyer is likely to follow compliance rules and deliver accurate work.

Extraversion - reflects sociability, assertiveness, and energy. Extroverts may excel in supplier negotiations and stakeholder engagement.

Agreeableness - indicates cooperation, empathy, and trust. Highly agreeable individuals may be effective in collaboration but could avoid conflict even when necessary.

Neuroticism (Emotional Stability) - refers to sensitivity to stress and emotional control. Low neuroticism (high stability) is ideal in high-pressure procurement negotiations.

By applying this model, a manager can gain insights into the personalities of their team, allocate roles effectively, and provide tailored support. For example, a procurement leader may assign highly conscientious individuals to compliance-heavy processes, while extroverts may be placed in supplier-facing roles.

The use of the Big Five also helps managers balance team dynamics, identify potential conflict, and design training or coaching interventions. Understanding personality traits supports motivation strategies (e.g., Herzberg, Maslow), builds stronger communication, and enhances trust within diverse teams.

In conclusion, a heterogeneous workforce brings significant benefits but requires skilful management to harness its potential. The Big Five Personality Traits provide a structured and evidence-based tool for understanding individuals, enabling managers to lead diverse teams more effectively and align strengths with organisational goals.

### NEW QUESTION # 32

Discuss 5 ways in which a Procurement Manager may approach conflict. You may refer to the Thomas Kilmann model in your answer (25 points).

#### Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Conflict is common in organisations and in procurement, where competing priorities, supplier issues, and internal pressures often clash. The Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Model identifies five different approaches managers may use to handle conflict, depending on the situation and the desired outcome.

The first approach is Competing (high concern for task, low concern for people). Here the manager asserts their own position to achieve quick results, even at the expense of relationships. For example, a procurement manager may insist on enforcing compliance with tendering rules despite stakeholder resistance. This is effective in crises but can harm morale if overused.

The second is Accommodating (low concern for task, high concern for people). In this style, the manager prioritises relationships by giving way to the other party's needs. For instance, a procurement manager might accept a stakeholder's preferred supplier to maintain goodwill, even if it is not the cheapest option. This preserves harmony but risks poor business outcomes if used too often.

The third approach is Avoiding (low concern for both task and people). Here, the manager withdraws from the conflict or postpones action. This may be appropriate when the issue is minor or when emotions are high, giving time for reflection. However, in procurement, avoiding conflict with a poor-performing supplier may worsen problems over time.

The fourth is Collaborating (high concern for both task and people). This involves working with others to find win-win solutions. For example, a procurement manager may work with finance and operations to balance cost, quality, and sustainability objectives in supplier selection. This is often the most effective approach but requires time and trust.

Finally, Compromising (medium concern for task and people) involves each side giving up something to reach a middle ground. For instance, a procurement manager may agree to split supplier contracts between two stakeholders' preferences. This provides quick solutions but may leave all parties partially dissatisfied.

Conclusion:

A procurement manager can approach conflict through competing, accommodating, avoiding, collaborating, or compromising. Each has strengths and weaknesses. The best managers adapt their style depending on the importance of the issue, the urgency of the decision, and the relationships involved. In procurement, collaboration often delivers the most sustainable results, but flexibility across all five approaches is key.

### NEW QUESTION # 33

Describe ONE model for classifying stakeholders. When communicating with different types of stakeholders, for example to notify them of an intended purchase of high value, how should this be managed by the Procurement Function of an organisation? (25 points).

#### Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

One widely used model for classifying stakeholders is Mendelow's Power-Interest Matrix. This model categorises stakeholders

based on their level of power (ability to influence decisions) and their level of interest (degree of concern in the issue). It helps managers decide how to engage with different stakeholders effectively.

**High Power / High Interest - Key Players:** These stakeholders must be closely managed and fully engaged. For example, the Finance Director or Hospital CEO when approving a high-value purchase. Procurement should provide detailed briefings, involve them in decision-making, and ensure their concerns are addressed.

**High Power / Low Interest - Keep Satisfied:** These stakeholders can influence outcomes but may not have strong interest in day-to-day procurement. For instance, regulatory bodies or legal advisors. Procurement should provide concise updates and ensure compliance to avoid dissatisfaction.

**Low Power / High Interest - Keep Informed:** These stakeholders care about the outcome but have limited influence. For example, end-users of medical equipment or nurses in a hospital setting. Procurement should communicate progress, seek feedback, and maintain transparency.

**Low Power / Low Interest - Minimal Effort:** These stakeholders require only basic information. For example, general staff not directly impacted by a procurement decision. Simple updates or summaries are enough to keep them engaged.

When communicating about a high-value purchase, the Procurement Function should tailor its communication strategy according to this classification. Key players (high power, high interest) must be involved early with full transparency, including risk assessments and supplier evaluations. Stakeholders with high interest but low power should be consulted to build trust and buy-in, while those with high power but low interest should receive enough information to stay satisfied. Procurement should also ensure consistent, professional communication that reflects the importance of the purchase and builds confidence in the process.

**Conclusion:**

Mendelow's Power-Interest Matrix provides a structured way to classify stakeholders. By adapting communication to each category - managing key players, keeping others satisfied or informed - the Procurement Function ensures effective stakeholder engagement, minimises resistance, and gains approval for high-value purchases.

#### **NEW QUESTION # 34**

Describe FIVE types of power that a stakeholder may have and compare how they may interact with the procurement department (25 points).

**Answer:**

**Explanation:**

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

**Explanation:**

Stakeholders can exert influence over procurement decisions in different ways. French and Raven identified five types of power that stakeholders may hold. Each has different implications for how procurement interacts with them.

1. **Legitimate Power:**

This comes from a stakeholder's formal position or authority. For example, a Finance Director may require procurement to comply with budgetary controls. Procurement must respect legitimate authority but can also influence decisions by providing evidence and business cases.

2. **Reward Power:**

This is based on the ability to provide benefits or incentives. For example, senior management may reward the procurement team with recognition or bonuses for achieving savings. Procurement can use this positively by demonstrating performance and aligning with organisational goals.

3. **Coercive Power:**

This is the power to punish or impose sanctions. For instance, a project manager may pressure procurement to prioritise their project by threatening escalation if deadlines are missed. Procurement must manage this carefully, balancing demands with fairness and compliance.

4. **Expert Power:**

This arises from specialist knowledge or skills. For example, a procurement professional with strong knowledge of supplier markets holds expert power, which can influence strategic decisions. Conversely, technical departments may hold expert power in specifying product requirements, requiring procurement to collaborate closely.

5. **Referent Power:**

This is based on personal relationships, respect, or charisma

a. For example, a well-liked senior stakeholder may influence procurement decisions even without formal authority. Procurement must manage these situations by maintaining objectivity while leveraging strong relationships to gain support.

**Comparison of Interaction with Procurement:**

Legitimate power often requires compliance, while procurement may respond with process adherence and evidence-based justification.

Reward power creates motivation for procurement, but risks short-term focus if overused.

Coercive power can create conflict and stress; procurement must use negotiation and diplomacy to manage.

Expert power can be collaborative, as procurement and stakeholders share knowledge to improve outcomes.



