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CIPS L4M1 - Question & Answer Past exam questions latest 2023/2023

O1. Outline FIVE differences between purchasing goods and purchasing services.

Answer - 1. Goods are tangible, services are intangible;
2. Services cannot be separated from their supplier;
3. Heterogeneity: goods are usually uniform in nature while services are unique at each delivery
4. Services 'perish' immediately on delivery whereas goods can be stored until required
5. Products are easier to specify, being tangible

O2. Explain THREE circumstances in which a competitive tendering exercise might not be the best approach to making a purchase. Answer - 1. Urgency

2. Commercial confidentiality or national security (e.g. military organisations);
3. Value of the purchase;
4. Production costs cannot be measured accurately;
5. Price is not the only criterion for supplier selection and contract award
6. Intellectual Property Rights and monopoly

O2. Describe TWO e-sourcing tools and their use in procurement and supply.

Answer - 1. E-Catalogues
2. E-Tendering
3. E. Auction
4. Reverse Auctions
5. Online supplier evaluation data

O3. Explain the role of a shared services unit (SSU). Answer - SSUs reflect a desire to centralise and share services

The shared service provider becomes a dedicated provider of services such as;
finance, HR, IT and procurement which continue to be provided internally.
An SSU manages costs and quality SLAs to demonstrate value for money.
An SSU's benefits may be summarised as:

- cost effective internal service;
- liaison with its customers;
- anticipating future demand;
- employing resources and providing higher levels of service more cost effectively than if they were provided by a department or an external provider.

O3. A manufacturer of electrically powered tools for the engineering industry consists of four separate business units, each of which undertakes its own purchasing activities.

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CIPS L4M1 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand and analyse the key steps when procuring goods or services: This section measures that skills of purchasing managers and procurement officers in identifying and evaluating stages in the sourcing process, planning, supplier selection, and contract management.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand and analyse the need for compliance: This section measures skills of compliance officers and sector-specific procurement managers in understanding different economic and industrial sectors such as
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procedures, strategies, manuals, and internal function involvement.

Quiz High Pass-Rate CIPS - L4M1 - Free Scope and Influence of Procurement and Supply Exam

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CIPS Scope and Influence of Procurement and Supply Sample Questions (Q16-Q21):

NEW QUESTION # 16

Explain, with examples, the three different ways one can categorise procurement spend: direct vs indirect, capital expenditure vs operational expenditure and stock vs non-stock items. (25 points)

Answer:

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

The knowledge to remember:

A table with text on it Description automatically generated

Direct	Indirect
Incorporated into goods; raw materials, components and WIP	ancillary item; MRO supplies
Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply	
effects customer satisfaction and reputation	no effect on customer satisfaction
relationship with supplier is collaborative and long-term	relationship is one off, transactional
objective = continuity of supply	objective = take advantage of promotions
carried out by procurement - high risk	may be carried out by end user- low risk
In Accounting included as 'cost of goods sold'	considered an overhead
Part of Porter's Value Chain	Support Activities of the business

Stock	Non-Stock
Buy to put in inventory	Buy to use straight away
Retail	Lean Manufacturing / JIT
Stock to forecasting - order sunglasses in Feb to sell in Summer	Stock to order - ordered when required e.g., in Construction - items incorporated straight away
Has stock holding costs	Use economic Order Quantities to minimise stock holding costs
Risks if item becomes obsolete (perishable)	Risks if order quantity isn't correct or issues with supply chain

Essay Plan :

Remember to include examples for each of the six categories of spend. This is specifically asked for in the question so it's important to include as many examples as you can. To do this you could take an example organisation such as a cake manufacturer and explain which of their purchases would fall into each category and why.

Introduction - explain why procurement categorises spend

- Direct - these are items that are incorporated into the final goods (the cakes) so would include raw materials such as flour, eggs, sugar etc
- Indirect - these are items that the company needs, but don't go into the end product. For example, cleaning products and MRO supplies for the machines
- Capital Expenditure- these are large one-off purchases, such as buying a new piece of equipment such as a giant oven to cook the cakes.
- Operational Expenditure - these are purchases that are required to ensure the business can function day-to- day. They may include PPE for the workers in the factory and cleaning equipment

- Stock items - these are items procured in advance and held in inventory until they are needed. In a cake manufacturing factory this could be PPE for staff such as hairnets and gloves. The organisation will buy these in bulk and keep them in a stock cupboard, using these as and when they are required
- Non- stock items - items that are not stored and used right away. An example would be eggs- these will need to be put directly into the cakes as they would go off if bought in advance.

Conclusion - the categories are not mutually exclusive - an item can be direct and operational, or indirect and stock. Different companies may use different systems to classify items of spend.

Example Introduction and Conclusion

Introduction

Procurement categorizes spend to efficiently manage resources and make strategic decisions. Three primary ways of categorizing procurement spend include distinguishing between direct and indirect spend, classifying expenditures as capital or operational, and categorizing items as stock or non-stock. These distinctions aid organizations in optimizing their procurement strategies for better resource allocation.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, categorizing procurement spend into direct vs. indirect, capital vs. operational, and stock vs. non-stock items is essential for strategic resource management. While these categories provide a structured framework, they are not mutually exclusive, as an item can fall into multiple categories. For example, an item may be both direct and operational or indirect and stock. The flexibility of these categories allows organizations to tailor their procurement strategies based on their specific needs, ensuring efficient resource allocation and effective supply chain management. Different companies may adopt varying categorization approaches depending on their industry, size, and operational requirements.

Tutor notes:

- Because you've got 6 categories of spend to talk about you're only going to need 3-4 sentences for each.
- Providing you've said the category, explained what it is and given one example, you'll absolutely fly through this type of question
- You could also mention that it is useful to use categories of spend as this helps with budgeting. Different categories may also have different processes to follow for procuring the item (this could form part of your introduction or conclusion).
- This subject is LO 1.3.2 it's quite spread out in the text book but the main info is on p.49
- Note- different companies/ industries classify items of spend differently. Particularly packaging and salaries.

Some say they're direct costs and some say they're indirect costs. Honestly, it's a hotly debated subject and I don't think there is a right or wrong. I'd just avoid those two examples if you can and stick to ones that aren't as contentious like eggs and PPE.

NEW QUESTION # 17

What is an electronic system? Describe the following: e-requisitioning, e-catalogues, e-sourcing, e-payment technologies (25 marks)

Answer:

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

How to approach this question:

- Your response will need 5 definitions. For 25 points that means 5 points per section so think about the level of detail you'll need to include. It would be 5 points for electronic system (i.e. your introduction and conclusion), and then do a paragraph on each of the technologies. In the description you could talk about why it's used and the advantages, and give some examples if you know any.
- Definition of electronic system - a system which uses some form of technology and automates a procurement process that would otherwise have been completed manually.
- E-Requisitioning - a way of ordering goods or services. Includes the use of integrated ordering systems such as: ERP/ ERP II / MRP / MRP II
- E-Catalogue- an electronic display of what goods can be ordered. A simple example of this may be a supplier displaying the goods they offer on their website and the prices to purchase the goods.
- E-Sourcing - this involves the early stages of the tender process- using an electronic portal to find a supplier and / or conduct a tender exercise.
- E-Payment - the P2P part of the cycle (procure to pay) - may involve electronic POs and Invoices, BACS, CHAPS and SWIFT payment systems, and the use of Purchasing Cards Example essay:

Electronic systems, commonly referred to as E-procurement, is the business-to-business or business-to- consumer purchase of goods or services, typically using the Internet or other information/ networking systems such as ERP systems. It has developed in the past 20 years as technology has improved and replaces time- consuming manual processes and is now considered the 'norm'. Electronic systems and e-procurement can be used throughout the entire supply chain- not just between a single buyer and supplier. Examples of electronic systems including the following:

E-requisitioning

This is often used in manufacturing organisations to order raw materials. An electronic 'bill of materials' is created and stock levels are automatically updated. As materials get used and a pre-determined level is reached, this triggers a new order which is placed via

an e-requisitioning system such as MRP. It is a technological version of the traditional kan-ban (2 bin) system. E-requisition tools are often cloud-based. It helps buyers simplify the buying process, track orders and provides higher levels of visibility on spend. The main disadvantage to this technology is that it requires technology interfacing between the buyer and supplier, which may be expensive.

E-catalogues

This is a digital or online version of a catalogue- a document that details what you can buy and at what price.

There are two main types - buy side catalogues and sell side catalogues. A buy-side catalogue is an internal system used by a buyer which hosts a list of pre-approved suppliers from whom purchases can be made. It may include details of commonly bought items and the prices. The use of this reduces maverick spending and ensures consistency in purchases (e.g. whenever lightbulbs need to be ordered, the same lightbulbs are ordered so the office lighting is consistent). A sell-side catalogue is provided by a supplier and details what they offer- it often includes prices, any discounts for bulk buying and may also let buyers know of availability (e.g. the website may say only two items remaining). This may be as simple as a price list on their website, available for anyone to view.

E-sourcing

This is a tool that helps a buyer find the most suitable supplier. Examples include e-tendering websites where a buyer can host a competition to find a supplier. E-auctions are also a type of e-sourcing tool. The tool (often a website) hosts all of the tendering documents and allows for buyers and suppliers to communicate during the tender process (for example if there are any clarifications needed on the specification). Using this tool allows for transparency and equal treatment, but also saves time in completing the tender exercise. PQQs can be automated and some e-sourcing tools include the use of Artificial Intelligence which can 'read' tender submissions and automatically exclude suppliers who do not fulfil the required criteria.

E-payment technologies

These are methods to pay for goods and services that replace the need for cash and cheques. Examples include online bank transfers, electronic Purchase Orders and Invoices and the use of Pre-Payment cards. These act like credit cards for employees to use when they need to buy supplies. For example, if you have a maintenance team that frequently need to purchase low-value items like screws and paint, you could issue the team with a Pre-Payment card with a certain limit (e.g. £500/ month) so they can buy what they need. The company will then automatically be sent a monthly invoice for all of the purchases. This saves time from having to issue the maintenance team with petty cash for the purchases and allows for greater visibility over spend (e.g. how many screws are typically bought per year?). Another typical use is for staff travel.

In conclusion, procurement teams benefit significantly from leveraging electronic tools, including e-requisitioning, e-catalogues, e-sourcing, and e-payment technologies. The adoption of these electronic tools brings about various advantages that enhance efficiency, transparency, cost-effectiveness, and overall effectiveness in the procurement process. Moreover E-procurement tools has helped develop the procurement function into a professional and respected function and allows for a more pro-active rather than reactive approach to purchasing.

Tutor Notes:

- Fun Fact! In the public sector, it is mandated that electronic systems are used in procurement (Public Contract Regulations 2015) as this helps to achieve the objectives of transparency and equal treatment. Where manual systems are used, it is easy to manipulate the tender process. For example, a buyer could read some tender submissions before the deadline for submission and no one would know, but with an electronic system this is impossible as it locks evaluators out until the deadline has passed and all bidders have submitted their responses. (note PCR 2015 is being replaced in 2024- details are still TBC but the above fun fact will still remain in the new legislation- they're definitely still going to make it compulsory).

- You could also mention the names of systems if you know any. For example, e-sourcing tools include MyTenders.com and Delta E-Sourcing. PO / Invoice systems include Sage, Xero and QuickBooks.

- The question doesn't ask for advantages of using these technologies but you could mention this in your answer. Just be sure that this isn't the focus of your response- the question asks specifically for you to DESCRIBE the systems so detailed Explanation: s and examples are where you will secure the most points.

- p.108

NEW QUESTION # 18

Explain the following terms: outsourced procurement, shared service unit (SSU) and consortium procurement.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of each approach to procurement? (25 points)

Answer:

Explanation:

See the solution inExplanation partbelow.

Explanation:

How to approach this question:

- There are 3 terms and an advantage and disadvantage for each you need to talk about. So that's 9 things. Out of 25 points you can see you'll probably only get 1-2 points for each aspect of the question. That shows you the level of detail you need to include - not that much!

- In terms of structure feel free to use headings and bullet points for this one Example Essay Outsourced procurement, shared service units (SSUs), and consortium procurement are distinct approaches to managing procurement activities within organizations. Each method carries its own set of advantages and disadvantages, catering to different organizational needs and circumstances. Outsourced Procurement: Outsourced procurement involves engaging a procurement consultant or an external organization to provide advice or handle the entire procurement process on behalf of the company. The advantages of outsourced procurement are that it frees up internal resources, allowing them to focus on other tasks. The expertise and skills brought by external consultants can also fill gaps in the organization's capabilities. Moreover, this approach is flexible, adapting well to irregular procurement needs. However, drawbacks include a potential loss of control, higher costs, the need for an additional management layer, and the risk of losing intellectual property (IP).

Shared Service Unit (SSU): A Shared Service Unit is an internal procurement support function within an organization that various divisions can access for assistance, resembling the outsourcing concept but within the organizational structure. The advantages of SSUs lie in potential cost savings, the ability to aggregate demand, and the establishment of common standards and processes across the company. The expertise utilized is internal, providing a sense of familiarity. The disadvantage is that measuring the success of an SSU can be challenging, and there is a risk of stifling innovation. The unit may also be perceived as remote from end users, and procurement processes might be slower due to serving multiple departments.

Consortium Procurement: Consortium procurement involves a collective effort where separate organizations join forces to purchase goods, thereby increasing their bargaining power. The advantages of this approach are in the aggregated demand, resulting in more economical purchases. Pooling knowledge and expertise within the consortium enhances the collective capabilities of its members, providing a sense of safety in numbers.

However, disadvantages include a potential loss of individual organizational power, prolonged decision-making processes within the consortium, challenges in responding quickly to demands, and the potential hindrance to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) competing if demand is aggregated.

In conclusion, organizations must carefully consider their specific needs, priorities, and the nature of their procurement requirements when choosing between outsourced procurement, SSUs, or consortium procurement. Each approach offers unique benefits and challenges, and the decision-making process should align with the organization's overall goals and strategies.

Tutor Notes:

- I've named lots of advantages and disadvantages for each of the models. 1-2 advantages and disadvantages of each is all you need to secure you the marks. Remember you only have 35 minutes to write this. A danger with this type of question is spending too long on one aspect of the question and running out of time to answer the rest of it.

- A good idea is to pace yourself and give yourself 10 minutes per term (outsourced, SSU and consortium) then 5 minutes at the end to review and edit your response.

- Some further details you may wish to include:

- Outsourced procurement - this is often used when the organisation doesn't have the expertise to procure the item they need. This often happens for complex / technical procurements or highly regulated industries. An example may be a housing provider who runs a block of flats where the lift has just broken down and cannot be fixed. They need to procure a new lift but have no idea how to write a specification for this as they don't have the technical knowledge of how lifts work. Hiring a consultant who is experienced in tendering for lifts, although expensive, may actually save money by reducing the risk of procuring the wrong thing.

- SSU - a Shared Service Unit acts as a support function for the organisation. This is described in Porter's Value Chain- all other departments can call on the SSU when they require assistance. The SSU is responsible for managing its own costs, employs its own resources and may have contractual agreements with other divisions. The main aim of the SSU is to add value. SSUs are common in large organisations where the core activities don't revolve around procurement (such as finance and service industries).

- Consortium - Consortium buying is encouraged in the public sector in order to maximise value for money.

Consortiums can create their own Frameworks. There is a risk that large consortia can abuse their dominant market position.

- LO 3.3 p. 161

NEW QUESTION # 19

Provide a definition of a stakeholder (5 points) and describe 3 categories of stakeholders (20 points).

Answer:

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

Essay Plan:

Definition of Stakeholder- someone who has a 'stake' or interest in the company. A person or organisation who influences and can be influenced by the company.

Categories of stakeholders:

1) Internal Stakeholders- these people work inside the company e.g. employees, managers etc

2) Connected- these people work with the company e.g. suppliers, mortgage lenders

3) External Stakeholders - these people are outside of the company e.g. the government, professional bodies, the local community.

Example Essay:

A stakeholder is an individual, group, or entity that has a vested interest or concern in the activities, decisions, or outcomes of an organization or project. Stakeholders are those who can be affected by or can affect the organization, and they play a crucial role in influencing its success, sustainability, and reputation.

Understanding and managing stakeholder relationships is a fundamental aspect of effective organizational governance and decision-making and there are several different types of stakeholders.

Firstly, internal stakeholders are those individuals or groups directly connected to the daily operations and management of the organization. Internal stakeholders are key to success and are arguably more vested in the company succeeding. They may depend on the company for their income / livelihood. Anyone who contributes to the company's internal functions can be considered an internal stakeholder for example:

This category includes

1) Employees: With a direct influence on the organization's success, employees are critical internal stakeholders. Their engagement, satisfaction, and productivity impact the overall performance.

2) Management and Executives: The leadership team has a significant influence on the organization's strategic direction and decision-making. Their decisions can shape the company's future.

Secondly, connected stakeholders are those individuals or groups whose interests are tied to the organization but may not be directly involved in its day-to-day operations. Connected stakeholders work alongside the organization and often have a contractual relationship with the organization. For example, banks, mortgage lenders, and suppliers. These stakeholders have an interest in the business succeeding, but not as much as internal stakeholders. It is important to keep these stakeholders satisfied as the organization does depend on them to some extent. For example, it is important that the organization has a good relationship with their bank / mortgage provider/ supplier as failing to pay what they owe may result in the stakeholders taking legal action against the organization.

This category includes:

1) Shareholders/Investors: Holding financial stakes in the organization, shareholders seek a return on their investment and have a vested interest in the company's financial performance.

2) Suppliers and Partners: External entities providing goods, services, or collaboration. Their relationship with the organization impacts the quality and efficiency of its operations.

Lastly external stakeholders are entities outside the organization that can influence or be influenced by its actions. This category includes anyone who is affected by the company but who does not contribute to internal operations. They have less power to influence decisions than internal and connected stakeholders.

External stakeholders include the government, professional bodies, pressure groups and the local community.

They have quite diverse objectives and have varying ability to influence the organization. For example, the government may be able to influence the organization by passing legislation that regulates the industry but they do not have the power to get involved in the day-to-day affairs of the company. Pressure groups may have varying degrees of success in influencing the organization depending on the subject matter. This category includes:

1) Customers: With a direct impact on the organization's revenue, customers are vital external stakeholders.

Their satisfaction and loyalty are crucial for the company's success.

2) Government and Regulatory Bodies: External entities overseeing industry regulations. Compliance with these regulations is crucial for the organization's reputation and legal standing.

In conclusion, stakeholders are diverse entities with a vested interest in an organization's activities. The three categories-internal, connected and external -encompass various groups that significantly influence and are influenced by the organization. Recognizing and addressing the needs and concerns of stakeholders are vital for sustainable and responsible business practices.

Tutor Notes

- The above essay is pretty short and to the point and would pass. If you want to beef out the essay you can include some of the following information for a higher score:

- Stakeholders can be harmed by, or benefit from the organization (can affect and be affected by the organization). For example a stakeholder can be harmed if the organization becomes involved in illegal or immoral practices- e.g. the local community can suffer if the organization begins to pollute the local rivers.

The local community can also benefit from the organization through increased employment levels.

- CSR argues organisations should respect the rights of stakeholder groups

- Stakeholders are important because they may have direct or indirect influence on decisions

- The public sector has a wider and more complex range of stakeholders as they're managed on behalf of society as a whole.

They're more likely to take a range of stakeholder views into account when making decisions. However, these stakeholders are less powerful - i.e. they can't threaten market sanctions, to withdraw funding, or to quit the business etc.

- The essay doesn't specifically ask you to Map Stakeholders, but you could throw in a cheeky mention of Mendelow's Stakeholder Matrix, perhaps in the conclusion. Don't spend time describing it though- you won't get more than 1 point for mentioning it. You'd be better off spending your time giving lots and lots of examples of different types of stakeholders.

- Study guide p. 58

NEW QUESTION # 20

In the supplier selection part of the Procurement Cycle, what criteria can a Procurement Manager use to ensure they award to the best supplier? (25 points)

Answer:

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

How to approach this question:

- This is quite an open question and there are many different things you could mention. One way to approach it would be to use Carter's 10 Cs- discuss a couple of these. OR just give a couple of criteria in different paragraphs. Some ideas include: Supplier financial status, Reputation / References, Quality, Availability, CSR Policies / Ethics / Environmental considerations, Accreditations, Added Value. This list is not exhaustive.
- If you're going for Carter's 10 Cs you could name a couple of these: competency, consistency, capability, control, cost, cash, clean, communication, culture, commitment
- I don't think either approach is better or worse. Choose the criteria you know the most about and write about those.
- The question doesn't tell you how many criteria to name, so you have to make a judgement call here. I would aim for 5-6. But if you can only remember 4 that's fine. The main thing they're looking for is that you explain for each one 1) what it is 2) how procurement can check 3) why procurement would look at that criteria 4) an example. If you do too many you risk not going into enough detail on each. It's a balance. 5 is always a good number to aim for if the question doesn't state.

Example Essay

In the procurement cycle, the supplier selection phase is a critical juncture that demands consideration.

Procurement Managers shoulder the responsibility of identifying and awarding contracts to suppliers who not only meet immediate needs, but contribute to the long-term success of the organization. This essay explores various criteria a Procurement Manager can employ to ensure the selection of the best supplier: financial stability, reputation, quality, availability, CSR policies, and added value. Financial stability is a foundational criterion in supplier selection. Assessing a supplier's financial status involves a multifaceted evaluation, with liquidity and gearing ratio taking center stage. The acid test, comparing short-term assets to liabilities, offers insights into a supplier's ability to settle debts promptly, with a ratio exceeding 1 indicating financial health. Meanwhile, the gearing ratio, reflecting the proportion of capital funded by loans, aids in gauging financial risk, with a ratio below 50% considered low-risk. Relying on published Profit and Loss statements and income statements, along with financial credit checks from platforms like Dun and Bradstreet, empowers Procurement Managers to make informed decisions. This financial scrutiny is imperative to avoid entering contracts with suppliers facing imminent financial struggles, safeguarding against potential disruptions to the supply chain.

Reputation and references are another pivotal criterion. Seeking references from previous contracts allows Procurement Managers to gauge a supplier's track record in successfully delivering on similar commitments.

Independent reviews and informal market inquiries supplement this information, providing a holistic understanding of a supplier's performance. However, caution is advised in overreliance on past performance, as variables like personnel changes or contract scale differences may impact outcomes. Recognizing that past shortcomings may have been addressed internally further emphasizes the need for a balanced approach to reference evaluation.

Thirdly, Quality. Beyond the product itself, considerations extend to the supplier's technological capabilities, manufacturing processes, and relevant accreditations such as ISO 9001. Physical visits to supplier sites may be warranted, especially for products like raw materials where samples can be requested. Adhering to recognized safety standards and assessing factors like fire retardancy ensures that the quality of manufactured goods aligns with established benchmarks.

Next, Availability is another important criteria to consider. Procurement Managers must evaluate a supplier's capacity and capability to meet specific requirements. Inquiries about existing contracts and flexibility in response to demand fluctuations provide insights into a supplier's commitment and responsiveness. Assessing the supplier's workload and the significance of the buyer in their client portfolio helps determine the level of attention and service the buyer can expect. A buyer may wish to avoid working for a supplier who is already stretched very thinly with other contracts.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies and ethical considerations have gained prominence in supplier selection. Beyond legal compliance, Procurement Managers may scrutinize a supplier's history for convictions or negative press related to corruption, bribery, or fraud. The presence of a Modern Slavery Policy and Environmental Policy, along with relevant accreditations like ISO14001 or Fair Trade certification, attests to a supplier's commitment to ethical and sustainable practices. Procurement would likely seek to appoint a supplier who's CSR vision aligns with their own company's.

Lastly, added value is an important criteria to consider. This is particularly so for Public Sector Organizations governed by the Social Value Act. In addition to meeting contractual requirements, suppliers may offer knowledge sharing, training, improved processes, or contribute to social value by employing local community members or providing apprenticeships. This criterion aligns procurement decisions with broader organizational goals, enhancing the overall impact of supplier relationships and benefitting the local community.

In conclusion, a careful combination of financial scrutiny, reputation assessment, quality evaluation, availability considerations, CSR policies, and added value analysis forms the bedrock of effective supplier selection in the procurement cycle. Procurement Managers, armed with a holistic understanding of these criteria, should seek not only to fulfil immediate needs, but also consider the

long-term impact of supplier appointments.

Tutor Notes

- A 'good' scoring answer (50-70%) will explain the criteria well and give examples. If you're looking for a distinction level answer (70%+) you could also mention advantages, disadvantages and risks associated with each of the criteria. For example, when looking at references and reputation it's important to know that a supplier would only ever provide a good reference to you, they would never tell you of a contract that failed.

Another example is that financial data may be skewed- a supplier may have a low score if they are just starting up or have recently remortgaged a property. It's therefore important to get a commentary as well as the figures / scores.

- You could also mention that criteria could be weighted e.g. more importance given to quality than financial status and also consider how easy or difficult it would be to get the information e.g. a supplier may say they have lots of availability to deliver the service you require, but they may just be saying this to win business.

How do you know for sure?

- Social Value Act isn't in this syllabus. If you work in Public Sector procurement it's something you'll be very familiar with. If you don't or you're outside of the UK do not worry about this. I've just included it to show how you can bring in your own knowledge to questions like this. You could think of particular criteria that's important to your industry and write about that. The Social Value Act: What is it, and why is it important? (samtaler.co.uk)

- Study guide p.77

NEW QUESTION # 21

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