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## SAVE International Value Methodology Associate Sample Questions (Q59-Q64):

### NEW QUESTION # 59

An unwanted function of a hammer would be:

- A. Swing arm
- **B. Transmit vibration**
- C. Apply force
- D. Deliver force

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Function Analysis in Value Methodology involves identifying and classifying functions of a product, process, or system using verb-noun combinations, as taught in the VMF 1 course (Core Competency #2). Functions are categorized as basic (essential to the purpose), secondary (supporting), or unwanted (undesirable outcomes).

For a hammer, the basic function is to "deliver force" to drive a nail, while secondary functions like "swing arm" or "apply force" support this purpose. An unwanted function is an unintended or negative outcome of the hammer's use.

\* Option A (Swing arm) is a supporting function, describing the action of the user's arm to generate momentum, and is not unwanted.

\* Option B (Apply force) is a secondary function, as it describes the action leading to delivering force, and is not unwanted.

\* Option C (Deliver force) is the basic function of a hammer, essential to its purpose, and not unwanted.

\* Option D (Transmit vibration) is correct because it represents an unintended and undesirable outcome- vibration transmitted to the user's hand can cause discomfort or fatigue, making it an unwanted function.

The VMF 1 course emphasizes identifying unwanted functions to target areas for value improvement, such as redesigning the hammer to reduce vibration.

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SAVE International, VMF 1 Core Competency #2 (Function Analysis), which includes identifying basic, secondary, and unwanted functions using verb-noun combinations.

SAVE International, "Value Methodology Standard," section on Function Analysis, describing the classification of functions, including unwanted outcomes.

### NEW QUESTION # 60

If an organization invests \$160,000 in a new software system that improves analysis and reduces annual costs by \$3,000 per year, the payback period would be approximately:

- A. 50 years
- **B. 53 years**
- C. 45 years
- D. 56 years

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

In Value Methodology, cost analysis often involves financial metrics like the payback period to evaluate the economic feasibility of alternatives, as taught in the VMF 1 course (Core Competency #4: Cost Analysis).

According to SAVE International's Value Methodology Standard, the payback period is "the time required for the cumulative savings or benefits from an investment to equal the initial cost, calculated as  $\text{Initial Investment} \div \text{Annual Savings}$ ." Here, the organization invests \$160,000 in a software system that saves \$3,000 per year.

\*  $\text{Payback Period} = \text{Initial Investment} \div \text{Annual Savings}$

\*  $\text{Payback Period} = \$160,000 \div \$3,000 = 53.333 \text{ years}$

\* Rounding to the nearest whole number, the payback period is approximately 53 years.

The question does not specify adjustments for the time value of money (e.g., discounting), which aligns with the simple payback method commonly used in VM for straightforward analysis.

\* Option A (45 years) is incorrect because  $160,000 \div 3,000 = 53.333$ , not 45.

\* Option B (50 years) is incorrect because it underestimates the payback period (53.333 years).

\* Option C (53 years) is correct, as it matches the calculated payback period when rounded.

\* Option D (56 years) is incorrect because it overestimates the payback period.

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SAVE International, VMF 1 Core Competency #4 (Cost Analysis), which includes calculating payback periods for economic evaluation in VM studies.

SAVE International, "Value Methodology Standard," section on cost analysis, referencing the simple payback method for assessing alternatives.

### NEW QUESTION # 61

The VM Job Plan provides a structured sequence of phases designed to leverage which of the following types of thinking?

- **A. Convergent and divergent**
- B. Critical and divergent
- C. Divergent and abstract
- D. Convergent and abstract

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The Value Methodology (VM) Job Plan, as outlined in the VMF 1 course (Core Competency #3: Value Methodology Job Plan), is a structured sequence of six phases designed to leverage both divergent and convergent thinking. According to SAVE International's Value Methodology Standard, "the VM Job Plan alternates between divergent thinking (to generate a wide range of ideas) and convergent thinking (to narrow down and refine those ideas)." Divergent thinking is used in the Creative Phase to brainstorm as many ideas as possible without judgment, while convergent thinking is applied in the Evaluation and Development Phases to analyze, select, and refine the best ideas into actionable proposals. This combination ensures a balance between creativity and practicality, maximizing value improvement.

\* Option A (Divergent and abstract) is incorrect because, while divergent thinking is used, "abstract" is not a specific type of thinking emphasized in the VM Job Plan.

\* Option B (Convergent and abstract) is incorrect because it omits divergent thinking, which is critical in the Creative Phase.

\* Option C (Critical and divergent) is incorrect because, while critical thinking is involved in Evaluation, the VM Job Plan specifically emphasizes convergent thinking to narrow down ideas.

\* Option D (Convergent and divergent) is correct, as it captures the dual thinking types leveraged across the VM Job Plan phases.

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SAVE International, "Value Methodology Standard and Body of Knowledge," available at <https://www.value-eng.org>, detailing the use of divergent and convergent thinking in the VM Job Plan.

SAVE International, VMF 1 Core Competency #3 (Value Methodology Job Plan), emphasizing the balance of divergent and convergent thinking.

### NEW QUESTION # 62

An effective Information Phase kickoff meeting:

- A. Discusses the challenges of the proposed VM study approach.
- B. Indicates the VM solutions desired by decision makers.
- C. Describes how functions have normally been accomplished.
- **D. Outlines goals for the study subject and VM study objectives.**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The Information Phase is the first phase of the Value Methodology (VM) Job Plan, where the team gathers and understands data about the study subject, as taught in the VMF 1 course (Core Competency #3: Value Methodology Job Plan). According to SAVE International's Value Methodology Standard, "an effective Information Phase kickoff meeting sets the stage for the VM study by outlining the goals for the study subject and the VM study objectives, ensuring alignment among team members and stakeholders." This involves clarifying the purpose of the study, the project's goals (e.g., reduce costs, improve performance), and the specific objectives of the VM study (e.g., achieve 20% cost savings while maintaining function). This aligns with the primary objective of the Information Phase—to understand the subject—and ensures the team starts with a clear direction.

\* Option A (Discusses the challenges of the proposed VM study approach) is incorrect because, while challenges may be acknowledged, the primary focus of the kickoff is to set goals and objectives, not discuss challenges.

\* Option B (Outlines goals for the study subject and VM study objectives) is correct, as it matches the purpose of an effective Information Phase kickoff meeting.

\* Option C (Indicates the VM solutions desired by decision makers) is incorrect because solutions are developed later (e.g., in the

Creativity and Development Phases), not during the Information Phase kickoff.

\* Option D (Describes how functions have normally been accomplished) is incorrect because this level of functional detail is addressed in the Function Analysis Phase, not the Information Phase kickoff.

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SAVE International, "Value Methodology Standard and Body of Knowledge," available at <https://www.value-eng.org>, detailing the role of the Information Phase kickoff in setting goals and objectives.

SAVE International, VMF 1 Core Competency #3 (Value Methodology Job Plan), emphasizing the importance of outlining goals during the Information Phase (consistent with Question 39).

### NEW QUESTION # 63

Risks associated with a project, product, or process typically impact:

- A. Cost, requirements, or results
- B. Time, function, or attributes
- C. Schedule, cost, or performance
- D. Resources, regulations, or time

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Risk management is a critical aspect of Implementation Planning in Value Methodology (VM), as it ensures that VM proposals can be successfully executed, as taught in the VMF 1 course (Core Competency #8:

Implementation Planning). According to SAVE International's Value Methodology Standard, "risks associated with a project, product, or process typically impact schedule, cost, or performance." This is often referred to as the "project management triangle" or "triple constraint," a fundamental concept in project management that VM adopts when assessing risks during the Development and Presentation Phases.

\* Schedule: Risks that cause delays (e.g., late delivery of materials).

\* Cost: Risks that increase expenses (e.g., unexpected cost overruns).

\* Performance: Risks that affect quality or functionality (e.g., a proposed solution failing to meet requirements).

The VMF 1 curriculum emphasizes that VM teams must identify and mitigate risks in these three areas to ensure the feasibility of their recommendations, making this the most relevant framework for understanding risk impacts in a VM context.

\* Option A (Schedule, cost, or performance) is correct, as it directly aligns with the standard risk impact areas in VM and project management.

\* Option B (Cost, requirements, or results) is incorrect because, while cost is relevant, "requirements" and "results" are less specific than "schedule" and "performance" in the context of VM risk management.

\* Option C (Resources, regulations, or time) is incorrect because, while time (schedule) is relevant, resources and regulations are more specific factors that contribute to broader impacts on schedule, cost, or performance.

\* Option D (Time, function, or attributes) is incorrect because, while time (schedule) is relevant,

"function" and "attributes" are not standard risk impact categories in VM; performance is the broader term used.

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SAVE International, "Value Methodology Standard and Body of Knowledge," available at <https://www.value-eng.org>, section on risk management, referencing the impact of risks on schedule, cost, and performance.

SAVE International, VMF 1 Core Competency #8 (Implementation Planning), emphasizing the project management triangle (schedule, cost, performance) in risk assessment.

### NEW QUESTION # 64

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