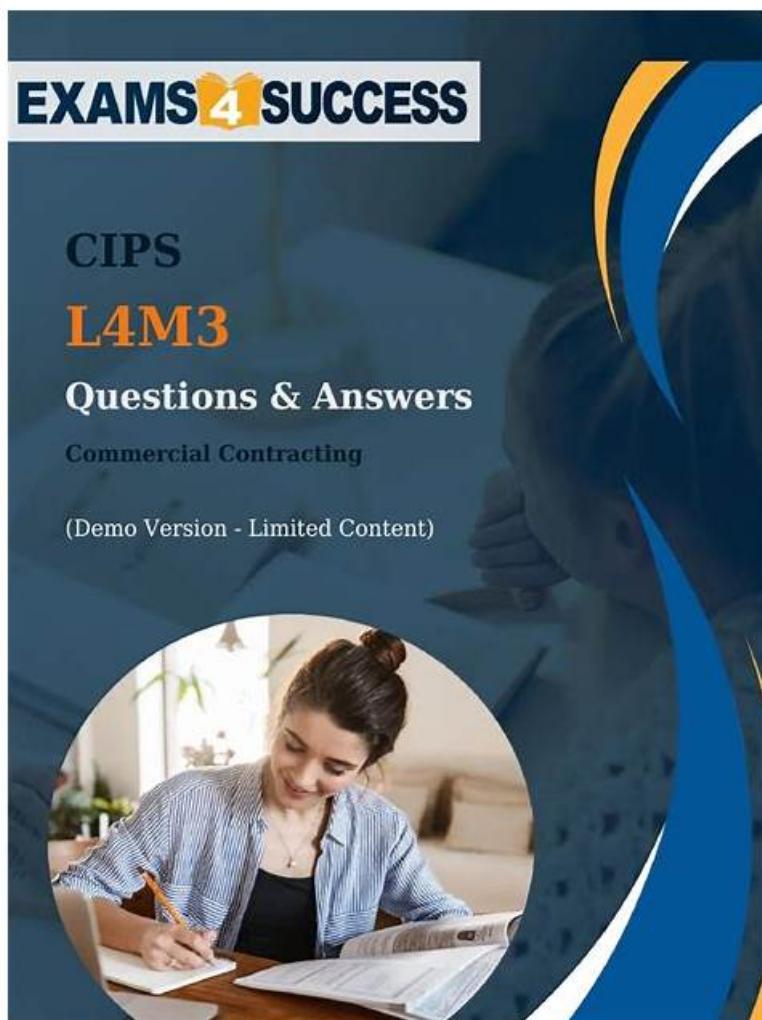


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CIPS L4M3 Certification Exam covers a wide range of topics related to commercial contracting, including contract law, contract management, procurement, negotiation, and risk management. L4M3 exam is divided into two parts: the first part consists of multiple-choice questions, while the second part is a written exam that assesses the candidate's ability to apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios. L4M3 exam is designed to test the candidate's understanding of commercial contracting principles, as well as their ability to apply these principles to practical situations.

CIPS L4M3 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details

Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope and Influence of Procurement and Supply (L4M1): This module assesses the capabilities of Procurement Officers, focusing on how procurement adds value across organisations. It covers the procurement cycle, stakeholder roles, compliance across sectors, and how electronic systems support various procurement stages. Learners examine corporate structures, governance, and IT tools, developing insights into the strategic positioning of procurement functions.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplier Relationships (L4M6): Designed for Vendor Relationship Officers, this unit investigates supply chain relationship models and the tools needed to build strong partnerships. Learners explore competitive influences, team dynamics, stakeholder management, conflict resolution, and reasons partnerships fail. It emphasises trust, communication, and performance review processes.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement and Supply in Practice (L4M8): For Procurement Specialists, this capstone module consolidates all other units, applying theory to real workplace settings. Learners demonstrate the full procurement cycle, from pre- to post-contract phases, supplier performance measurement, whole-life costing, and ESG (environmental, social, governance) practices across industries and sectors.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical and Responsible Sourcing (L4M4): This module targets Compliance Specialists and focuses on responsible supplier selection. It looks into sourcing options, financial evaluations, pre-contract activities, award criteria, and the importance of sustainability, governance, and ethical considerations, both domestically and internationally. Learners also explore audit mechanisms and environmental strategies.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defining Business Need (L4M2): Designed for Sourcing Analysts, this section explores how to create a solid business case when sourcing externally. It includes market evaluation, pricing strategies, budgeting models, and competitive forces across different sectors. The module also highlights the importance of detailed specifications and how these impact supplier decisions and risk management.
Topic 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Negotiation (L4M5): Tailored for Category Buyers, this section covers commercial negotiation techniques and preparation. It includes stakeholder dynamics, power balance, relationship impact, economic influences, and communication strategies. The module provides the foundation for conducting effective negotiations and evaluating outcomes for future improvements.
Topic 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Contracting (L4M3): Aimed at Contract Managers, this module explores the legal and structural elements of formal contracts. It includes content on contract types, specifications, key clauses, KPIs, pricing methods, and risk areas in contract law. It helps learners understand the legal foundation required for clear and enforceable agreements with suppliers.

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CIPS Commercial Contracting Sample Questions (Q227-Q232):

NEW QUESTION # 227

Company A sends a purchase order complete with a set of conditions of contract for the provision of professional services to Company B. Company B responds with an invoice complete with a set of its own conditions of contract. Company A pays the invoice. Which conditions of contract take legal precedence?

- A. Company A's
- B. Neither Company A's nor Company B's
- C. Both Company A's and Company B's
- D. Company B's**

Answer: D

Explanation:

This scenario illustrates the "battle of the forms," where each party attempts to impose its own terms. The general legal principle is that the last set of terms sent before performance (in this case, Company B's invoice) takes precedence if the other party proceeds without objection (Company A's payment). Therefore, Company B's terms would likely govern the contract.

Reference: CIPS L4M3 Commercial Contracting Study Guide, Chapter 1, Section 1.2.3 - Principles relating to the battle of the forms and precedence of contract terms.

NEW QUESTION # 228

Which of the following may be a benefit for purchaser in using call off contract?

- A. Maintaining a degree of competition between suppliers
- B. Ability to discover new potential suppliers
- **C. Secured supply**
- D. No long-term commitment required

Answer: C

Explanation:

Benefits for the purchaser in using call off contract are as below:

- The benefit of a call off contract is that they allow the supply of materials, goods and services to be secured over multiple delivery dates across the length of a project.
- Agreed prices, either fixed or pre-agreed mechanism for adjustment. This helps with setting and controlling budgets.
- Simple order mechanisms at the point of need
- Schedules of rates pricing enables electronic procure-to-pay systems, which gives greater control and visibility of spend
- The value of spend ad length of contract justify the cost of proper market engagement and tender or negotiation processes resulting in better value for money
- The longer the contract, the greater the opportunities for aligning working practices to create joint efficiency.

Reference:

- Call Off Contracts - What are they and how are they used?
- CIPS study guide page 63-64

LO 1, AC 1.3

NEW QUESTION # 229

Social and environmental criteria are often incorporated into which of the following type of specification?

- A. Conformance specification
- B. Design specification
- **C. Output specification**
- D. Technical specification

Answer: C

Explanation:

Developing and using generic specifications is as import in the sustainable procurement process as it is in the traditional procurement process. During this stage, human/labour rights and environmental performance criteria should be translated into specifications that meet specific requirements of the specified outcome, desired by the procurement action.

The specification stage is key to all types of contract. Building in environmental and social considerations at this early stage, provides a clear indication to suppliers that sustainability is important to the UN organization. Consider available alternatives which are less environmentally and socially damaging. Consider all the phases of a product's life cycle (e.g. production, transportation, maintenance, disposal, etc) when determining its cost and environmental impact. Assess the overall environmental and social integrity of suppliers by looking at their policies and practices.

Specifications which are output-based rather than input-based can increase supplier innovation, reduce waste and minimise harmful social and environmental impacts.

Reference:

- Sustainable Procurement

- CIPS study guide page 95-99

LO 2, AC 2.1

NEW QUESTION # 230

Maximum Score 1

Buyer O has placed an order for the supply and installation of six new servers for a total amount of £600,000 from Supplier A. Which of the following could potentially be treated as examples of a liquidated damages clause within the contract for the supply of the servers?

- * If the supplier delivers any of the servers late, £1,000 per server will be deducted from the order per day
- * This contract is subject to delay remedies of £X - the amount to be agreed by both parties during delivery
- * The sum for breach of the completion date for the order is £40,000 per day up to a maximum of 50% of the contract price
- * If the performance of any of the servers degrades within five years, a full refund of £600,000 will be provided

- A. 2 and 4 only
- **B. 1 and 3 only**
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 3 and 4 only

Answer: B

Explanation:

Liquidated damages are pre-agreed fixed sums payable for specific breaches, such as late delivery.

Clauses 1 and 3 meet this definition.

Clause 2 is uncertain ("to be agreed") and unenforceable; clause 4 is a warranty, not LDs.

Reference: CIPS L4M3 Commercial Contracting - "Remedies for breach - liquidated damages."

NEW QUESTION # 231

A procurement professional is preparing a sale & purchase contract of a machinery. Which of the following clauses should be added to the contract? Select TWO that apply

- A. Supplier selection mechanism
- **B. Insurance requirements**
- C. Ratio decidendi
- **D. Guarantees**
- E. Period of hire

Answer: B,D

Explanation:

The complexity of the contract will reflect the complexity of the purchase. For simple, low-value purchases, standard terms and conditions may be all that is required, but do not assume that just because the purchase is one-off, the contract will be simple. It may still need to cover the following areas:

- Warranties and guarantees if the one-off purchase has a considerable life-span and is business-critical (e.g., a back-up generator for the office which houses the national computer servers).
- Insurance requirements: including professional indemnity, public/products liability, employer's liability, and cover for any specific risks such as pollution or working at height.
- Specification requirements on quality, timing and delivery
- Minimum quality standards on the business operation (e.g., a catering provider might only be providing sandwiches for a team meeting lunch, but you still need to know its hygiene practices).
- Built-in change process for any goods or services that are beyond very simple (e.g., works contracts always have variations procedures because of the unpredictable nature of such projects).
- Ability to extend the scope of the contract should be minimal or none, and restrained to the single requirement.
- Ability to extend the duration of the contract should be limited to the ability to accommodate unexpected time overruns (which itself should be subject to a damages/penalty provision where they are attributable to the supplier, and an extension to overheads costs where they are attributable to the purchaser).
- Data security protocols need to be considered if personal data is being shared.

Reference:

LO 1, AC 1.3

NEW QUESTION # 232

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