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CIPS Level 4 – Diploma in Procurement and Supply

Defining Business Needs [L4M2]

Sample Exam Questions (Objective Response)

The correct answer will be listed below each question

L4M2 Sample Questions V4 Sept 2020

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CIPS Defining Business Needs Sample Questions (Q214-Q219):

NEW QUESTION # 214

In 2016, ANA Airlines had to cancel some of its flight. The airline said it had discovered the cracks to the jet engine turbine blades. What should ANA procurement team do next to solve this problem?

- A. Collect data to identify the root cause
- B. Define the ideal solution
- C. Analyse the situation and draw conclusion
- D. Assess the risks
- E. Generate options addressing the issue

Answer: A

Explanation:

Cracks on the jet engine is a closed-end problem. A typical problem solving process has 8 steps:

Step 1: Define the Problem

- What is the problem?
- How did you discover the problem?
- When did the problem start and how long has this problem been going on?
- Is there enough data available to contain the problem and prevent it from getting passed to the next process step? If yes, contain the problem.

Step 2: Clarify the Problem

- What data is available or needed to help clarify, or fully understand the problem?
- Is it a top priority to resolve the problem at this point in time?
- Are additional resources required to clarify the problem? If yes, elevate the problem to your leader to help locate the right resources and form a team.
- Consider a Lean Event (Do-it, Burst, RPI, Project).
- Ensure the problem is contained and does not get passed to the next process step.

Step 3: Define the Goals

- What is your end goal or desired future state?
- What will you accomplish if you fix this problem?
- What is the desired timeline for solving this problem?

Step 4: Identify Root Cause of the Problem

- Identify possible causes of the problem.
- Prioritize possible root causes of the problem.
- What information or data is there to validate the root cause?

Step 5: Develop Action Plan

- Generate a list of actions required to address the root cause and prevent problem from getting to others.
- Assign an owner and timeline to each action.
- Status actions to ensure completion.

Step 6: Execute Action Plan

- Implement action plan to address the root cause.
- Verify actions are completed.

Step 7: Evaluate the Results

- Monitor and Collect Data.
- Did you meet your goals defined in step 3? If not, repeat the 8-Step Process.
- Were there any unforeseen consequences?
- If problem is resolved, remove activities that were added previously to contain the problem.

Step 8: Continuously Improve

- Look for additional opportunities to implement solution.
- Ensure problem will not come back and communicate lessons learned.
- If needed, repeat the 8-Step Problem Solving Process to drive further improvements.

ANA has already known what is going on, the next step they should adopt is collecting more information on the problem. If the airline is hurry to the solution, it may choose 'Generate options addressing the issue'. The crack on turbine blade can be welded, or the airline replaces a new blade. However, jumping to solution without knowing the root cause does not completely solve the problem. The root cause is unaddressed, then it may occur in the future. Therefore, the airline should still collect information to find the root cause, then remove it.

NEW QUESTION # 215

Synergy Ltd is a fast-growing tool and hardware retailer. The company's customer services team has been using Excel worksheets to manage customer relationships. When the company is expanding its market presence, this way of working leads to poorer customer services as the database is scattered around in spreadsheet, leading to patchy and inconsistent conversations with customers. The company decides to purchase a CRM system. What requirement should Synergy's procurement team take into account in the specification for CRM system?

- A. The relative size of the potential suppliers to Synergy
- **B. The ability to import bulk data from Excel spreadsheets**
- C. Total number of the supplier's employees
- D. The form and reference number of the purchase order

Answer: B

Explanation:

The purpose of this question is to test the student's ability to identify the problems and translate those problems to actionable requirements before communicating with the suppliers. The scenario suggests that Synergy Ltd's customer services team is using Excel spreadsheets, they lack a centralised customer database.

This leads to problems in communications with customers.

A CRM system can solve the communication problem. But a question arises: If a CRM system is employed, how will the previous data be imported? If the CRM system can support bulk import from Excel tables, it will save a lot of time.

NEW QUESTION # 216

Daytona Ltd is developing a new product which is more environmental friendly. Though the objectives are set, the project team has no idea on which functions will be customers' favourites. Which of the following will help them decide the 'should-have' functions of the new product?

- A. Taguchi method
- **B. Kano model**
- C. Six Sigma
- D. Thomas-Kilmann model

Answer: B

Explanation:

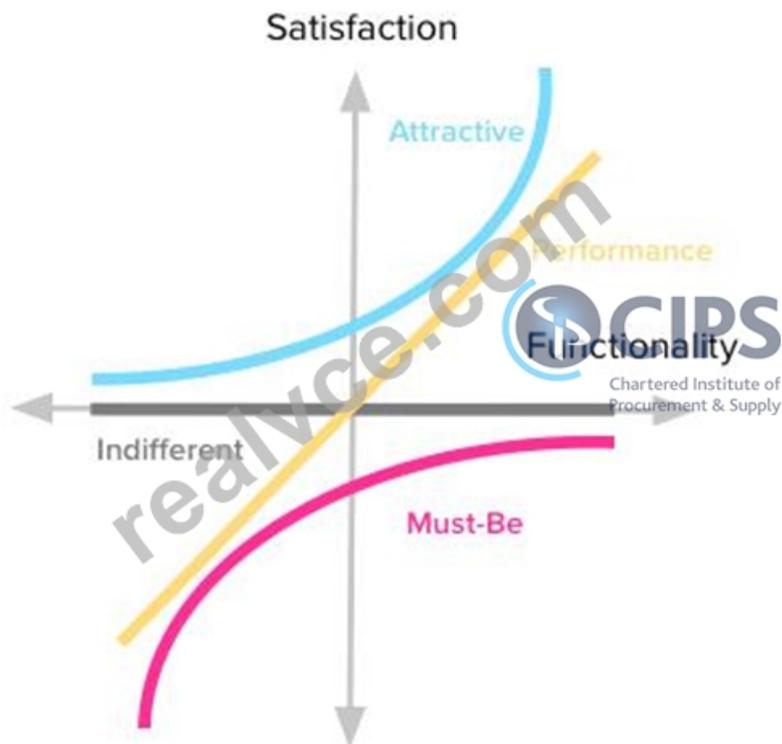
The Kano model is useful in gaining a thorough understanding of a customer's needs. You can translate and transform the resulting verbatims using the voice of the customer table that, subsequently, becomes an excellent input as the whatsin a quality function deployment (QFD) House of Quality.

The model involves two dimensions:

Achievement (the horizontal axis), which goes from the supplier didn't do it at all to the supplier did it very well.

Satisfaction (the vertical axis), which goes from total dissatisfaction with the product or service to total satisfaction with the product or service.

Dr. Noriaki Kano isolated and identified three levels of customer expectations: that is, what it takes to positively impact customer satisfaction. The figure below portrays the three levels of need: expected, normal, and exciting.



The Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Mode Instrument (TKI) is a conflict style inventory, which is a tool developed to measure an individual's response to conflict situations.

Genichi Taguchi, a Japanese engineer, proposed several approaches to experimental designs that are sometimes called "Taguchi Methods." These methods utilize two-, three-, and mixed-level fractional factorial designs. Large screening designs seem to be particularly favored by Taguchi adherents.

Six Sigma is a method that provides organizations tools to improve the capability of their business processes. This increase in performance and decrease in process variation helps lead to defect re-duction and improvement in profits, employee morale, and quality of products or services.

Source:

- CIPS study guide page 171-172
- WHAT IS THE KANO MODEL?
- LO 3, AC 3.4

NEW QUESTION # 217

How can a procurement department meet the business needs when purchasing leverage items?

- A. Developing buying power such as competitive tendering
- B. Developing effective contracts such as call-off contracts
- C. Developing efficient order processes such as e-procurement
- D. Developing long-term relationships such as partnerships

Answer: A

NEW QUESTION # 218

Which of the following specific markets is most likely to have product shortage by nature?

- A. Retail
- B. Financial
- C. Agriculture
- D. Services
- E. Construction

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