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## APICS CPIM-8.0 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sales and Operations Planning: This module assesses the skills of Operations Planners in terms of sales and operations planning processes. It includes understanding the purpose of S&amp;OP, creating aggregate demand plans, and reconciling these plans to ensure alignment between sales forecasts and operational capabilities. A crucial skill measured is "reconciling supply-demand gaps."</li> </ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supply Chains and Strategy: This section of the exam measures the skills of Supply Chain Managers and covers various aspects related to supply chains, including their interaction with the environment and strategic objectives. It delves into developing organizational strategies, functional strategies, performance monitoring using KPIs, risk management, capital equipment management, and sustainability strategies. A key skill assessed here is "analyzing market trends."</li> </ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demand: This section evaluates the abilities of Demand Analysts in managing demand through forecasting techniques. It explores sources of demand data for accurate forecasting and evaluating forecast performance to improve future predictions. One important skill evaluated is "forecasting demand accurately."</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality, Technology, and Continuous Improvement: This section assesses skills of Quality Assurance Specialists, focusing on quality assurance methodologies enhanced by technology to drive continuous improvement efforts. A key skill measured here is "enhancing quality metrics."</li> </ul>
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supply: This module tests the competencies of Procurement Specialists in managing supply chains effectively. It involves creating master schedules for production planning, maintaining these schedules over time, material requirements planning (MRP), capacity requirements planning (CRP), supplier management practices, and purchasing strategies during product life cycle changes. A key skill measured here is "validating master schedules."</li> </ul>

Topic 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inventory:</b> The inventory module evaluates the skills of Inventory Controllers, covering inventory planning principles such as determining optimal stock levels based on costs versus benefits analysis metrics like ABC classification systems used globally today along with itemized inventory control mechanisms ensuring efficient stock turnover rates while minimizing holding costs.   <b>Distribution:</b> This section measures the abilities of Logistics Coordinators, focusing on distribution network design principles that optimize replenishment orders efficiently while considering reverse logistics practices aimed at reducing waste through proper disposal methods according to environmental regulations.</li> </ul>
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### APICS Certified in Planning and Inventory Management (CPIM 8.0) Sample Questions (Q369-Q374):

#### NEW QUESTION # 369

Substituting capital equipment in place of direct labor can be economically Justified for which of the following scenarios?

- A. Functional layouts are being utilized
- B. Implementing a pull system in production
- C. Material prices are forecasted to increase
- **D. Volumes are forecasted to increase**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Substituting capital equipment in place of direct labor can be economically justified for scenario A, where volumes are forecasted to increase. This is because capital equipment can provide higher productivity, efficiency, and quality than direct labor, especially for large-scale and standardized production. Capital equipment can also reduce labor costs, such as wages, benefits, and training, and avoid labor shortages or turnover. However, capital equipment also involves high initial investment, maintenance, and depreciation costs, and may require more skilled workers to operate and monitor. Therefore, the substitution of capital equipment for direct labor should be based on a careful analysis of the trade-offs between the costs and benefits of both alternatives.

Option B is not correct, because material prices are forecasted to increase. This scenario does not directly affect the decision to substitute capital equipment for direct labor, as both alternatives use the same materials. However, increasing material prices may reduce the profitability of the production, and may require the company to find ways to reduce material usage, such as improving material yield, reducing scrap and rework, or sourcing from cheaper suppliers.

Option C is not correct, because implementing a pull system in production. This scenario does not favor the substitution of capital equipment for direct labor, as a pull system is based on the principle of producing only what is needed by the customer, when it is needed, and in the quantity needed. A pull system requires flexibility, responsiveness, and adaptability to the changing customer demand, which may be better achieved by direct labor than capital equipment. A pull system also aims to minimize inventory, waste, and overproduction, which may reduce the need for capital equipment.

Option D is not correct, because functional layouts are being utilized. This scenario does not support the substitution of capital equipment for direct labor, as functional layouts are based on grouping similar or related processes or machines together, regardless of the product flow. Functional layouts may result in long and complex material flows, high transportation and handling costs, high work-in-process inventory, and low visibility and coordination of the production. Functional layouts may also require more direct labor to move and monitor the materials and machines. Capital equipment may be more suitable for product layouts, where the processes or machines are arranged according to the sequence of operations for a specific product or family of products.

Production and Inventory Management

Capital Equipment and Labor

Facility Layout and Design

### NEW QUESTION # 370

Which of the following items does the master scheduler have the authority to change in the master scheduling process?

- A. Product mix
- B. Aggregate volume
- C. Customer order quantities
- D. Engineering change effectivity date

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The master scheduler has the authority to change the product mix in the master scheduling process. The product mix is the combination and proportion of different products or product families that the company offers to its customers. The master scheduler can adjust the product mix based on the customer demand, the production capacity, the inventory levels, and the strategic objectives of the company. The master scheduler can also use the product mix to balance the demand and supply, to optimize the resource utilization, and to maximize the profitability. The other options are not correct, as they are items that the master scheduler does not have the authority to change in the master scheduling process, but rather inputs or constraints that the master scheduler has to follow or consider:

\* Aggregate volume is the total quantity of products or product families that the company plans to produce and deliver in a given period. Aggregate volume is determined by the sales and operations planning (S&OP) process, which involves the senior management and the functional managers of the company. The master scheduler has to align the master production schedule (MPS) with the aggregate volume, and cannot change it without the approval of the S&OP team.

\* Engineering change effectivity date is the date when a change in the design or specification of a product or a component becomes effective. Engineering change effectivity date is determined by the engineering department, which is responsible for the product development and innovation. The master scheduler has to incorporate the engineering change effectivity date into the MPS, and cannot change it without the approval of the engineering department.

\* Customer order quantities are the amounts of products or product families that the customers order from the company. Customer order quantities are determined by the market demand and the customer preferences. The master scheduler has to satisfy the customer order quantities as much as possible, and cannot change them without the approval of the customers or the sales and marketing department. References:

\* [CPIM Part 2 - Section A - Topic 1 - Sales and Operations Planning]

\* Master Production Schedule (MPS)

\* Product Mix

\* Aggregate Planning

\* Engineering Change Management

\* Customer Order Management

### NEW QUESTION # 371

The primary consideration in maintenance, repair, and operating (MRO) supply systems typically is:

- A. shelf life.
- B. stockout costs.
- C. order quantity.
- D. carrying costs.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Maintenance, repair, and operating (MRO) supply systems are essential for ensuring the availability and reliability of equipment and infrastructure used in production processes. MRO supplies include items such as spare parts, tools, lubricants, cleaning materials, and safety equipment. The primary consideration in MRO supply systems typically is stockout costs, which are the costs incurred when an item is not available when needed. Stockouts can cause production delays, equipment breakdowns, customer dissatisfaction, and lost sales opportunities. Therefore, it is important to maintain adequate inventory levels of MRO supplies to avoid stockouts and ensure uninterrupted operations. Order quantity, carrying costs, and shelf life are also important factors in MRO supply systems, but they are not the primary consideration. Order quantity is the amount of MRO supplies ordered at a time, which affects the ordering costs and the inventory levels. Carrying costs are the costs of holding MRO supplies in inventory, which include storage, handling, insurance, and obsolescence costs. Shelf life is the period of time that MRO supplies can be stored before they expire or deteriorate, which affects the inventory turnover and the waste disposal costs. These factors need to be balanced with the stockout costs to optimize the MRO supply systems. Reference:

**NEW QUESTION # 372**

Which of the following actions hinders the transition from a push system to a pull system?

- **A. Using work orders as a backup**
- B. Maintaining a constant number of kanban cards during minor changes in the level of production
- C. Using standardized containers
- D. Introducing kanban cards as authorization for material movement

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

A push system is a production system that relies on forecasts and schedules to plan the production and distribution of goods and services. A pull system is a production system that responds to actual customer demand and signals to trigger the production and distribution of goods and services. A transition from a push system to a pull system requires a change in the mindset and the processes of the organization, as well as the adoption of new tools and techniques to enable a demand-driven production system<sup>2</sup>. One of the tools that is commonly used in a pull system is kanban, which is a visual signal that indicates the need for replenishment of materials or products. Kanban cards are attached to standardized containers that hold a fixed amount of inventory. When a container is empty, the kanban card is sent back to the upstream process as a signal to produce more. This way, the inventory level is controlled by the actual consumption of the downstream process, and the production is synchronized with the demand<sup>3</sup>.

One of the actions that hinders the transition from a push system to a pull system is using work orders as a backup. Work orders are documents that authorize the production of a certain quantity of a product or a service, based on a forecast or a schedule. Work orders are typical of a push system, as they are not triggered by the actual customer demand, but by the planned production. Using work orders as a backup means that the organization is not fully committed to the pull system, and still relies on the push system to ensure the availability of inventory. This can create confusion, inconsistency, and inefficiency in the production system, as well as increase the inventory holding costs and the risk of obsolescence<sup>1</sup>.

Therefore, using work orders as a backup is the correct answer, as it is an action that hinders the transition from a push system to a pull system. The other options are actions that support the transition, as they are aligned with the principles and practices of a pull system.

**NEW QUESTION # 373**

Which of the following factors is considered a carrying cost?

- A. Transportation
- **B. Obsolescence**
- C. Setup
- D. Scrap rate

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Carrying cost is the total cost of holding and storing inventory. It includes various expenses such as storage, insurance, taxes, depreciation, and obsolescence. Obsolescence is the loss of value or usefulness of inventory due to changes in technology, customer preferences, or market conditions. Obsolescence is considered a carrying cost because it reduces the potential revenue that can be generated from selling the inventory. Setup, transportation, and scrap rate are not carrying costs, but rather order costs, logistics costs, and quality costs respectively. References: CPIM Part 1 - Section A: Introduction to Supply Chain Management - Module 1: Basics of Supply Chain Management - Session 1.4: Inventory - Inventory Costs. CPIM Part 1 Study Guide, pp. 1-32 - 1-33.

**NEW QUESTION # 374**

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