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CIPS Diploma in Procurement and Supply

L5M1: Managing Teams and Individuals

Practice Test – Constructed Response Format

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## CIPS L5M1 Exam Syllabus Topics:

| Topic   | Details   |
|---------|---|
| Topic 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Understand, Analyse, and Apply Management and Organisational Approaches: This section of the exam measures skills of Operations Managers and covers the understanding and evaluation of organisational behaviour and management approaches. It assesses knowledge of individual and team behaviour, organisational structures, and the psychological contract, as well as factors like STEEPLED influences. Candidates are tested on traditional and contemporary management approaches, including administrative, scientific, and human relations methods, as well as postmodernism, socio-technical systems, and distributed leadership. The role of individuals, teams, and organisational culture in shaping behaviour is also evaluated.</li></ul> |

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Topic 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the Application of Management Concepts and Principles in a Procurement and Supply Function: This section of the exam measures skills of Procurement Managers and focuses on applying management principles within procurement and supply operations. Candidates are tested on aligning team knowledge, skills, and behaviours with organisational strategy, defining the scope of operations, and developing teams. The syllabus also includes managing stakeholder relationships, building trust, promoting collaboration, fostering a culture of learning, sharing procurement knowledge, professional development, and the importance of personal behaviours such as unbiased decision-making, communication, creativity, and reflective practice to enhance procurement and supply effectiveness.</li> </ul> |
| Topic 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand and Apply Approaches to Managing Individuals: This section of the exam measures skills of HR Managers and focuses on managing individual behaviour effectively. It examines how differences in behavioural characteristics affect management style and approach, highlighting diversity, emotional intelligence, and assessment techniques for development. The section also covers the creation and management of knowledge, formal and informal learning processes, cognitive and behavioural learning theories, motivation theories including intrinsic and extrinsic factors, and factors influencing job satisfaction such as job design, collaboration, and flexible working arrangements.</li> </ul>  |
| Topic 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand and Apply Approaches to Planning and Managing Work Groups or Teams: This section of the exam measures skills of Team Leaders and covers the dynamics and effectiveness of work groups or teams. Candidates are tested on understanding group vision, values, norms, and alignment, as well as formal and informal group structures. The syllabus includes strategies for developing effective teams, team roles, self-managed teams, virtual team management, diversity benefits, and conflict management. It also assesses knowledge of team development, learning integration, role congruence, and approaches for merging, disbanding, or changing teams.</li> </ul>  |

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### CIPS Managing Teams and Individuals Sample Questions (Q30-Q35):

#### NEW QUESTION # 30

Discuss the importance of the following when entering a negotiation with a new supplier: curiosity, creative thinking, reflective analysis (25 points).

#### Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

When entering negotiations with a new supplier, a procurement professional must use a variety of interpersonal and cognitive skills to achieve the best outcome. Three important qualities are curiosity, creative thinking, and reflective analysis.

#### Curiosity (8-9 marks):

Curiosity means asking questions, exploring options, and seeking to understand the supplier's position. In a negotiation, curiosity allows the buyer to uncover the supplier's motivations, constraints, and priorities. For example, asking why a supplier has higher costs may reveal underlying logistics challenges, which could be solved collaboratively. Curiosity builds rapport, demonstrates interest, and helps procurement move beyond price to explore value-added benefits such as quality improvements or sustainability initiatives.

#### Creative Thinking (8-9 marks):

Creative thinking is about generating new solutions and finding alternatives to traditional approaches. In negotiation, this may involve looking for win-win outcomes rather than focusing only on cost. For example, instead of demanding lower prices, procurement could

propose longer contracts, volume commitments, or joint innovation projects that benefit both parties. Creative thinking expands the scope of negotiation and helps develop more sustainable supplier relationships.

Reflective Analysis (8-9 marks):

Reflective analysis involves reviewing past experiences and learning from them to improve decision-making. Before negotiating, procurement professionals can reflect on what has worked or failed in previous negotiations. During the negotiation, reflective analysis helps assess whether strategies are effective and adapt accordingly. After the negotiation, reflection allows continuous improvement in approach. For example, a buyer may reflect on why a past supplier negotiation failed due to being too aggressive, and adjust by using more collaborative tactics with the new supplier.

Conclusion:

Curiosity helps procurement gather insights, creative thinking enables innovative solutions, and reflective analysis ensures continuous improvement. Together, these skills allow procurement professionals to build trust, secure better value, and establish strong long-term relationships with new suppliers.

### **NEW QUESTION # 31**

Describe ONE model for classifying stakeholders. When communicating with different types of stakeholders, for example to notify them of an intended purchase of high value, how should this be managed by the Procurement Function of an organisation? (25 points).

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

One widely used model for classifying stakeholders is Mendelow's Power-Interest Matrix. This model categorises stakeholders based on their level of power (ability to influence decisions) and their level of interest (degree of concern in the issue). It helps managers decide how to engage with different stakeholders effectively.

**High Power / High Interest - Key Players:** These stakeholders must be closely managed and fully engaged. For example, the Finance Director or Hospital CEO when approving a high-value purchase. Procurement should provide detailed briefings, involve them in decision-making, and ensure their concerns are addressed.

**High Power / Low Interest - Keep Satisfied:** These stakeholders can influence outcomes but may not have strong interest in day-to-day procurement. For instance, regulatory bodies or legal advisors. Procurement should provide concise updates and ensure compliance to avoid dissatisfaction.

**Low Power / High Interest - Keep Informed:** These stakeholders care about the outcome but have limited influence. For example, end-users of medical equipment or nurses in a hospital setting. Procurement should communicate progress, seek feedback, and maintain transparency.

**Low Power / Low Interest - Minimal Effort:** These stakeholders require only basic information. For example, general staff not directly impacted by a procurement decision. Simple updates or summaries are enough to keep them engaged.

When communicating about a high-value purchase, the Procurement Function should tailor its communication strategy according to this classification. Key players (high power, high interest) must be involved early with full transparency, including risk assessments and supplier evaluations. Stakeholders with high interest but low power should be consulted to build trust and buy-in, while those with high power but low interest should receive enough information to stay satisfied. Procurement should also ensure consistent, professional communication that reflects the importance of the purchase and builds confidence in the process.

Conclusion:

Mendelow's Power-Interest Matrix provides a structured way to classify stakeholders. By adapting communication to each category - managing key players, keeping others satisfied or informed - the Procurement Function ensures effective stakeholder engagement, minimises resistance, and gains approval for high-value purchases.

### **NEW QUESTION # 32**

Contrast different ways in which an individual can learn new skills/knowledge (15 points). Describe a factor which may influence how individuals learn a new skill/knowledge (10 points).

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Individuals learn in different ways, and managers must understand these methods to develop their teams effectively.

One method is formal learning, such as classroom courses, e-learning, or qualifications like CIPS. This gives structured knowledge

and ensures consistency, but it may lack immediate workplace application.

A second method is on-the-job learning, where skills are developed through daily tasks, job rotation or shadowing. This is practical and tailored to the workplace but may be inconsistent without good supervision.

A third approach is experiential learning, based on Kolb's cycle of experience, reflection, conceptualisation and testing. For example, a buyer may learn negotiation skills by practising in a live supplier meeting, reflecting on performance, and then improving.

Another method is social learning, as described by Bandur

a. Individuals learn by observing and modelling others' behaviour. In procurement, junior staff may observe how senior colleagues manage supplier relationships and copy effective practices.

Finally, there is self-directed learning, where individuals take initiative through reading, research or online courses. This builds independence but requires strong personal motivation.

In contrast, formal learning is structured and standardised, while experiential and social learning are more practical and situational.

On-the-job learning blends practice with support, whereas self-directed learning provides autonomy but less guidance. Most organisations use a mix of these methods to ensure balanced development.

One important factor that influences learning is an individual's learning style. According to Honey and Mumford, some people are activists (learn best by doing), others are reflectors (learn by observing and thinking), theorists (prefer analysing concepts), or pragmatists (want to apply ideas in practice). For example, in procurement training, an activist may benefit from a role-play negotiation, while a theorist may prefer studying sourcing models before application. Managers who recognise learning styles can tailor development activities to individual preferences, making learning more effective.

In conclusion, individuals can learn through formal, on-the-job, experiential, social, or self-directed approaches, each with strengths and weaknesses. Learning effectiveness depends on personal factors such as style, and managers who understand these differences can create development opportunities that are both motivating and productive.

### **NEW QUESTION # 33**

Describe 5 characteristics of a role that would make it intrinsically motivating to a potential employee. (25 points).

#### **Answer:**

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Intrinsic motivation comes from within the individual and relates to personal satisfaction, growth, and achievement, rather than external rewards such as pay. The Job Characteristics Model (Hackman and Oldham) identifies several features of a role that can make it intrinsically motivating.

The first is Skill Variety. A role that allows employees to use a range of skills and abilities prevents boredom and makes the job more stimulating. For example, a procurement professional who undertakes supplier negotiations, contract management, and market analysis will find their role more engaging than one limited to routine administration.

The second is Task Identity. This means being able to complete a whole piece of work from start to finish. Employees are more motivated when they can see a clear outcome. In procurement, this could be managing a sourcing project end-to-end, from supplier selection through to contract award.

Thirdly, Task Significance adds motivation by making employees aware of the impact of their work on others. If individuals see that their role contributes to organisational goals or wider society, they gain intrinsic satisfaction. For example, a buyer working on sustainable sourcing projects may feel motivated by contributing to environmental and ethical improvements.

The fourth is Autonomy. When employees have control over how they perform their work, they feel trusted and empowered. In procurement, this could mean giving staff flexibility in how they manage supplier relationships or structure negotiations, rather than micro-managing every step.

Finally, Feedback is a key factor. Employees are motivated when they receive clear information on their performance, either from managers, colleagues, or the work itself. For example, a procurement professional who gets recognition for achieving cost savings or reducing supplier risks will feel intrinsically rewarded.

In summary, roles that offer skill variety, task identity, task significance, autonomy, and feedback are more likely to be intrinsically motivating. For managers, designing jobs with these characteristics is essential for creating engaged and high-performing teams, particularly in procurement where complex, meaningful, and responsible work opportunities can drive motivation.

### **NEW QUESTION # 34**

Kevin is the Head of Procurement at a manufacturing company and oversees the work of a team of 32 procurement professionals.

The different people within his team have a varying level of knowledge and skills and they all work on different projects, some of which are more important than others. Based on Kevin's concern for the team member's performance and his concern for the task they are completing, describe FIVE leadership styles Kevin could employ. Your answer may make reference to Blake and Mouton's Leadership Grid (25 points).

## Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Blake and Mouton's Leadership Grid highlights five leadership styles based on two dimensions: concern for people and concern for task. Kevin can use different styles depending on the skills of his team and the importance of each project.

Impoverished Management (Low task/Low people)

This style shows little concern for people or performance. Kevin would provide minimal guidance or support, essentially leaving the team to their own devices. While not usually effective, it may be applied temporarily where staff are highly capable and self-motivated, or in less critical projects where close oversight is not needed.

Country Club Management (High people/Low task)

Here, Kevin shows strong concern for people but little focus on results. He prioritises team harmony, morale, and relationships. This could be used with a new or inexperienced team to build confidence and trust, but it risks low performance if project deadlines or targets are missed.

Task Management (High task/Low people)

This style focuses heavily on performance, structure, and efficiency, with little attention to employee needs. Kevin might use this in high-pressure procurement projects, such as negotiating urgent supply contracts, where results are critical. However, overuse can demotivate staff and create high turnover.

Middle-of-the-Road Management (Medium task/Medium people)

This is a balanced approach where Kevin gives some attention to both people and results but does not excel in either. It produces average performance and morale. Kevin might use this style for steady projects with moderate importance, though it risks mediocrity if not adapted when situations demand more.

Team Management (High task/High people)

This is considered the most effective style, where Kevin drives high performance while also motivating and supporting his team. He involves employees in decision-making, sets challenging goals, and encourages collaboration. For example, in strategic procurement projects, Kevin could adopt this style to achieve strong results while also developing his team's skills.

By switching between these styles, Kevin can match leadership behaviours to the skills of his team and the importance of the task.

For example, urgent, high-value contracts may need task management, while long-term development projects may benefit from team management.

Conclusion:

Blake and Mouton's grid provides five leadership styles - impoverished, country club, task-focused, middle-of-the-road, and team management. Each has strengths and weaknesses, and Kevin's role as Head of Procurement is to adapt his approach depending on the project demands and the skills of his team members. By applying situational leadership, he can ensure both high performance and team engagement.

## NEW QUESTION # 35

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