

専門的なCIPS L4M1日本語対策は主要材料 &公認されたL4M1最新資料

CIPS L4M1
4.2 Analyse the impact of the public sector on procurement or supply chain roles

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Analyse the impact of the public sector on procurement or supply chain roles:

You will understand:

- Objectives of public sector organisations such as improving services, communities and corporate social responsibility
- Regulations that impact on procurement and supply chain operations
- Need for competition, public accountability and value for money

Contents

Objectives of public sector organization

ちなみに、GoShiken L4M1の一部をクラウドストレージからダウンロードできます：<https://drive.google.com/open?id=14tbDGNs4J4-BqtpNM0NZknYbNk20try0>

一日も早くCIPSのL4M1試験に合格したい？ GoShikenが提供した問題と解答はIT領域のエリートたちが研究して、実践して開発されたものです。それは十年過ぎのIT認証経験を持っています。GoShikenは全面的な認証基準のトレーニング方法を追求している。GoShikenのCIPSのL4M1を利用した大勢の人々によると、CIPSのL4M1試験の合格率は100パーセントに達したのです。もし君が試験に関する問題があれば、私たちは最も早い時間で、解答します。

CIPS L4M1 認定試験の出題範囲：

トピック	出題範囲
トピック 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 調達とサプライチェーン管理を通じて付加価値を理解し、分析します。この試験セクションでは、調達と供給における付加価値の成果を特定し、コスト削減、サービスの改善、イノベーションの貢献を評価することに関連するサプライチェーン マネージャーのスキルを測定します。また、付加価値に貢献する調達と供給のプロセスも測定します。
トピック 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 商品やサービスの調達時の主要な手順を理解し、分析します。このセクションでは、調達プロセス、計画、サプライヤーの選択、契約管理の各段階を識別および評価する際の購買マネージャーと調達担当者のスキルを測定します。

トピック 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 調達とサプライチェーン機能の範囲を形成する組織インフラストラクチャの側面を理解し、分析する：このセクションでは、サプライチェーン戦略家と組織アナリストが企業統治、文書化されたポリシー、説明責任、倫理を理解するスキルを測定します。また、組織のポリシーと手順が調達とサプライチェーンに与える影響についても取り上げます。
トピック 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> コンプライアンスの必要性を理解し分析する：このセクションでは、コンプライアンス担当者とセクター別の調達マネージャーが、次のようなさまざまな経済および産業セクターを理解するスキルを測定します。

>> L4M1日本語対策 <<

L4M1最新資料 & L4M1試験過去問

ローマは一日に建てられませんでした。多くの人にとって、短い時間でL4M1試験に合格できることは難しいです。しかし、幸いにして、L4M1の練習問題の専門会社として、弊社の最も正確な質問と回答を含むL4M1試験の資料は、L4M1試験対する問題を効果的に解決できます。L4M1練習問題をちゃんと覚えると、L4M1に合格できます。あなたはL4M1練習問題を選ばれば、試験に合格できますよ！

CIPS Scope and Influence of Procurement and Supply 認定 L4M1 試験問題 (Q42-Q47):

質問 # 42

What is a Code of Ethics? What should an Ethical Policy Contain? What measures can an organisation take if there is a breach of their Ethical Policy? (25 points)

正解:

解説:

See the solution in Explanation part below

Explanation:

- Firstly give a short definition of Code of Ethics: a document that sets out moral principles or values about what is right and wrong.
- What an Ethical Policy should contain: Condition of workers, Environment, H+S, Discrimination, Gift / Bribery Policy, Whistleblowing, Confidentiality, Fair Dealings, Declaration of Conflict of Interests. You won't have time to go into depth on all of these, so pick a few where you want to give an example.
- Measures to take if there is a breach: depending on what the breach is and who breached it this could include: education/ training, sanctions, blacklisting, reporting to authorities, publicise the issue, use a performance improvement plan, issue warnings, dismissal.

Example Essay:

A code of ethics is a formal document or set of principles that outlines the values, ethical standards, and expected conduct for individuals within an organization. It serves as a guide for employees and stakeholders, shaping their behaviour and decision-making to align with the organization's ethical framework. It may take the form of a Mission Statement, Core Values, Specific Guidelines or established reporting mechanisms. The purpose of the Code is to establish standards, promote integrity, mitigate risks and build trust- with both internal and external stakeholders.

A Code of Ethics may contain the following:

- Condition of workers - stating what the company will provide to the employees to make sure the environment is safe. This could include the physical environment but also hours worked, opportunities for breaks etc. Depending on the sector it could detail shift patterns, expectations regarding overtime and compensation.
- Environment - this section would discuss compliance with legislation regarding pollution, disposal of waste materials etc. Depending on the company's goals- they may have higher commitments to the environment than those imposed by the government. Additional commitments may include NetZero targets or the use of renewable sources of energy.
- H+S- Health and Safety. Ensuring that the working environment is free of hazards and that workers have the training and equipment they need to complete the work safely. E.g PPE
- Discrimination- a promise not to discriminate based on any characteristic. Aligns with the Equalities Act. Policy should include how the company would handle situations, for example if an employee reports an issue of discrimination or harassment. This may involve the use of a whistleblowing hotline or details on how to contact HR.
- Gift / Bribery Policy - this area of the code of conduct would explain whether the company allows staff members to receive gifts (e.g. from suppliers) and the processes to complete if they do (e.g. return the item, complete an internal document, donate the gift to charity). Different companies and industries will have different rules surrounding this, the Public Sector is much more likely to reject

gifts from suppliers for example.

- Declaration of conflict of interests- this explains what staff should do if there is a conflict. For example if they are running a tender and their father owns one of the suppliers who is bidding for the work. The conflict of interest policy will explain what the person should do, how to report it and have mechanisms in place to ensure that nothing untoward could come of the situation. This may be having another member of staff mark the tender to ensure unbiasedness.

Measures to take in case of a breach

A response to a breach will depend on who breached the policy - whether this is an employee or a supplier. It will also depend on the severity of the breach.

Remedies for a supplier breach could include: education / training if the breach is minor. Supplier development if the relationship with the supplier is very important (for example if there are no other suppliers the buyer could turn to) and the breach is minor. If the breach is major such as fraud or misappropriation of funds, a buyer could look to issue sanctions, claim damages and dismiss the supplier. There could be options to claim liquidated damages if this is included in the contract. For very serious offenses the buyer may blacklist the supplier- never use them ever again and could also report the issue to the police if the breach is also criminal (e.g. modern slavery or fraud).

Remedies for an employee breach could include: for minor breaches training may be required, particularly if it was a junior member of the team and it was an innocent mistake like forgetting to fill out a form when they received a Gift. The employee could be carefully monitored and put on an Improvement Plan. If internal issues are found, such as several staff are breaching the Code of Ethics, senior management could look to review policies to make sure issues are being flagged and responded to in the best way. Employees who fail to follow the Ethical Policy, either through routinely failing to adhere to it or through a major breach could be dismissed from the organisation. There would need to be strong evidence of this.

In conclusion it is important for all organisations regardless of size of industry to have an Ethics Policy. Sharing the code of ethics with staff is a fundamental step in embedding ethical principles into the organizational culture. Regular communication and training reinforce these principles, fostering a shared commitment to ethical behaviour across all levels of the organization.

Tutor Notes

- In an essay like this it's always a good example to use examples. They can be hypothetical - you don't have to know any company's Ethics policy off by heart. E.g. If a supplier breached a buyer's Ethical Policy by employing Child Labour in their factories, an appropriate measure for the buyer to take would be to cancel the contract and find another supplier. This is because not only is Child Labour illegal, the buyer will not want to be associated with this supplier as it will have negative repercussions on their image. The best response would therefore be to distance themselves from the supplier.

- Code of Ethics and an Ethics Policy are the same thing. Just different language. The terms can be used interchangeably

- Study guide p. 128

質問 # 43

Discuss the importance and role of an organisation's branding in procurement and supply operations (25 marks)

正解:

解説:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

How to approach the question

- This is a very open question so your essay could discuss

o the functions of a brand; e.g. advertising, marketing, creating trust, identity o What is effective branding? Strong image, convincing people to purchase, shared values with customers, offering a solution to a problem

o The impact for procurement and supply chain isn't explained in the study guide so tailor this however you like. The best thing to do would be to think about some companies where branding is important, such as luxury goods, cars, or the brand is synonymous with a particular aspect such as Apple being associated with innovative technology. From there you could argue the importance of selecting the right suppliers to work with in order to keep up the brand image. Another example could be an ethical company needing to ensure their supply chain is 'clean', so as not to damage their branding. Possibilities are endless with this one.

Example Essay

In the contemporary business landscape, the significance of branding extends far beyond marketing and consumer perception. In procurement and supply operations, an organization's brand plays a pivotal role in shaping relationships with suppliers, determining the quality of goods and services that are procured, and influencing overall supply chain efficiency. This essay delves into the importance of branding in procurement and supply, exploring how a strong brand image can drive competitive advantage, foster trust and collaboration, and impact an organization's bottom line.

Building Competitive Advantage Through Brand Reputation:

The reputation of an organization's brand is a key determinant in attracting and retaining high-quality suppliers. A strong brand often correlates with financial stability, market presence, and business ethics, making such organizations more appealing to work with. This advantage is critical in procurement as it can lead to preferential treatment, such as priority access to scarce resources, better payment terms, and opportunities to collaborate on innovative products. For example, a well-regarded technology company might

receive early access to cutting-edge components from suppliers eager to be associated with a market leader.

Enhancing Supplier Relationships and Negotiations:

Branding extends into the realms of trust and reliability, essential components in building long-term relationships with suppliers. A well-respected brand often implies a history of fair dealings, prompt payments, and mutual respect, which can make suppliers more willing to negotiate favourable terms. This trust can be particularly vital in times of supply chain disruptions or market volatility. Suppliers are more likely to extend credit or expedite orders for trusted partners, which can be invaluable for maintaining uninterrupted operations.

Influencing Quality and Sustainability Standards:

An organization's brand also communicates its commitment to quality and sustainability, which are increasingly crucial in procurement decisions. Suppliers aligning with brands that emphasize high-quality standards are often more diligent in maintaining these standards in their products and services. Additionally, a strong brand committed to sustainability can drive supply chain practices that align with environmental and social governance (ESG) principles. This commitment can lead to long-term cost savings, risk mitigation, and enhanced brand loyalty among environmentally conscious consumers.

Brand Image and Consumer Perception:

The procurement function directly impacts the final product quality, which in turn affects consumer perception of the brand. An organization's ability to procure high-quality, ethically sourced materials can significantly enhance its brand image and appeal to a broader customer base. For instance, a fashion brand's commitment to ethical sourcing and procurement of sustainable materials can bolster its image as an environmentally responsible brand, appealing to a growing demographic of eco-conscious consumers. The reverse is also true, brands associated with child or forced labour where this is found to be in their supply chains can suffer from loss of customers, revenue and reputation as well as potentially even legal consequences.

Internal Branding and Employee Engagement in Procurement:

Internal branding, the way an organization's values and culture are perceived by its employees, plays a crucial role in procurement. Employees who are proud of their organization's brand are more likely to engage deeply with their work, leading to better performance in procurement roles. This engagement can result in more innovative procurement strategies, improved vendor management, and a greater focus on aligning procurement practices with the organization's overall strategic goals.

Conclusion:

The role of an organization's branding in procurement and supply operations is deeply impactful. A strong brand can create competitive advantages, foster better supplier relationships, influence quality and sustainability standards, enhance consumer perception, and drive employee engagement. In the modern business world, where supply chains are complex and consumer expectations are high, branding is not just a marketing tool but a strategic asset in procurement and supply operations. Organizations that recognize and leverage the power of their brand within these operations are poised to achieve greater efficiency, sustainability, and overall success.

Tutor Notes

- This is a really random section of the study guide and doesn't really relate to the rest of the content.

Branding comes up on p.226 - 228. It therefore can come up as a question, but because it's such a small part of the syllabus, don't focus too much effort on this subject.

- If you remember one line from this topic it's this: "branding is not just a marketing tool but a strategic asset in procurement and supply operations"

- This type of question could come up as a scenario / case study. E.g. How does the branding of X Company impact upon their supply chain.

質問 # 44

Describe the four main ways that a Public Sector organisation can procure goods or services (25 points)

正解:

解説:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

How to approach this question

- This question is testing to see if you know the 4 procurement procedures allowed in the Public Sector which are: open, restricted, competitive dialogue, competitive dialogue with negotiation. The Public Sector is limited in how it can procure due to the Public Contract Regulations, so things like Early Supplier Involvement isn't an option.

- The question doesn't specifically say it has to be these four, but these are the ones in the book. Because of the vagueness you could say something like running a competition and awarding via a Framework instead.

Talking about Public Private Partnerships could also be appropriate but that is outside of the scope of this module (and Level! It comes up in Level 5). These answers would be accepted.

- Also note that it doesn't say the UK in the question, so if you answered this about your own country, that would be fine.

Example Essay

Each country's government has its own regulations relating to how goods, services and works can be procured.

The UK's procurement rules is currently dictated by the Public Procurement Regulations 2015 which is based off EU Procurement Directives. This piece of legislation will likely be superseded in Autumn 2023 due to the UK leaving the EU. Until this point, the PCR allows UK public sector organisations to procure in the following ways: open, restricted, competitive dialogue, competitive dialogue with negotiation
Open Procedure: This is the most straightforward and transparent method. A local government issues an open tender for office supplies. Any company that provides these supplies can submit a bid. The government then evaluates all bids based on price, quality, and delivery terms to select the supplier. Any interested supplier can submit a tender. The process is open from the outset, and all submissions are evaluated against pre-defined criteria. This procedure is used when you wish to attract a large number of bidders for the opportunity and is often posted online on a platform such as Find A Tender.com so that suppliers can find the opportunity. If it is a large contract it is a requirement for details to be published on OJEU. The disadvantage of using this approach is that you may receive many bids which can be time-consuming.

Restricted Procedure: In this method, the public sector organization invites suppliers to express their interest.

After a preliminary selection process, only those who meet the criteria are invited to submit tenders. This is used when the opportunity is more technical, for example a healthcare authority needs specialized medical equipment. The authority would request expressions of interest from suppliers. After reviewing these, it invites a shortlist of qualified suppliers to submit detailed bids for further evaluation. The benefit of this approach is that unsuitable suppliers are weeded out early, this saving time.

Competitive Dialogue: This is used for complex contracts where the organization cannot define the technical means or legal or financial make-up of a project in advance. A dialogue with selected bidders is conducted to develop one or more suitable solutions, which are then put out to tender. For example, a local council is planning a new public transport system but is unsure of the best solution. It enters into a dialogue with several firms specializing in transport systems to explore various options before requesting final bids based on the developed solutions. Suppliers can be eliminated through the dialogue process based on pre-determined criteria.

Competitive Dialogue with Negotiation: Similar to competitive dialogue, but with an added phase of negotiation. It's used for particularly complex projects where the needs cannot be met without adaptation of readily available solutions. For example: a government department requires a complex IT system that integrates various existing systems. It engages in a competitive dialogue to develop potential solutions and then negotiates with bidders to refine these solutions before finalizing the contract. This procedure allows for negotiations with the winning bidder to readjust requirements if needed.

The approach taken by a public sector organisation will depend on a number of factors, but in particular the complexity of the project and whether there is a pre-determined scope. Other factors to consider include; the time-sensitiveness of the project and how quickly the procurement exercise needs to be completed, the amount of suppliers in the marketplace, and whether suppliers need to be consulted on to create the specification.

Tutor Notes

- These four procedures are outlined on p.212. Post PCR 2015, these procedures may change, or be renamed, depending on what the UK government decide to do. So if you're taking this exam in November 2024 or later, note that the study guide is now out of date and you should conduct a bit of your own research.

- You could also mention that the value of spend is a factor when public sector organisations are deciding on a procurement route.

For really low value stuff, like they need a new sofa for the office, most organisation's requirements are to get three quotes and compare them. That isn't in the study guide, it's just real life (I've worked in this sector so know this stuff). Each organisation will have it's own thresholds for what procurement route needs to be taken, so I wouldn't comment on that but generally if it's under £10k there's quite a bit of flexibility. Where you reach 'threshold' then things become very serious and there's much more scrutiny.

- Thresholds are not part of the syllabus so don't worry about learning this. But if you're interested have a read here: [New public procurement thresholds from 1 January 2024 - BM Insights - Blake Morgan](#)

質問 # 45

What is 'supply chain management'? Outline the drivers, advantages and disadvantages of using this approach within the Procurement Department of an organisation (25 points)

正解:

解説:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

How to approach the question

- There are 4 main components to this question that you will have to answer, so my advice is to first write down subheadings for your essay so you don't miss any out: definition of supply chain management, drivers, advantages and disadvantages

- The question also brings up 2 concepts - supply chain management and tiered supply chains, it would be good to include a definition of both of these.

- Because of the number of things you'll have to write, you don't need to go into lots of detail - one paragraph per section will be enough.

Proposed Essay Structure

Intro - what is supply chain management and what is a tiered supply chain
P1 - drivers
P2 - advantages
P3 - disadvantages

Conclusion - supply chains are complex due to globalisation Essay Ideas:

- Definition of supply chain management = Making something available in response to a buyer's requirements. The transformation of goods from raw material into an end product (input > conversion > output)

- Drivers = Cost, Time/ Speed, Reliability, Responsiveness, Transparency, Globalisation

- Advantages = reduced costs by elimination of waste, improved responsiveness to customer requirements, joint-ventures with supply partners leading to innovations, tech sharing, improved communication leads to faster lead times for product development

- Disadvantages = needs considerable investment and internal support, closer relationships may be risky (IP, loss of control), issues in fairly distributing gains and risks (you don't need to talk about all of these- pick 1 or 2 you feel you know the best and focus on that) Example Essay Supply Chain Management (SCM) is the arrangement of processes involved in the production and distribution of goods / services - from the origin to the end consumer. In simple terms, it's taking a raw product and transforming it into an end product that a consumer would purchase. For example taking a potato from a farmer, giving it to a manufacturer to make into chips and sending these to retailers to be sold. SCM relies on close relationships between the parties in the supply chain and adds value to the product at every stage. A Tiered Supply Chain is a specific configuration within SCM that involves multiple levels of suppliers and sub-suppliers. A buyer will work with a small amount of Tier 1 suppliers who will in turn work with their own suppliers. In a tiered system there can be many, many layers of suppliers who all ultimately work towards creating the same product. This essay aims to delve into the drivers, advantages, and disadvantages associated with implementing a complex supply chain, such as the Tiered Supply Chain model.

The main drivers of using a tiered supply chain are often rooted in the pursuit of efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and flexibility. By consolidating suppliers into distinct tiers, organizations can streamline their management processes, reduce complexity, and enhance overall supply chain performance.

Additionally, tiered supply chains are often employed in response to the global nature of modern business, accommodating the need to source materials and components from various regions while maintaining a manageable and responsive supply network.

One of the advantages of a Tiered Supply Chain is the streamlined management of suppliers. In this model, there are fewer direct suppliers to oversee, simplifying the coordination and communication processes. This can lead to increased efficiency and responsiveness as organizations deal with a smaller, more manageable pool of suppliers. The consolidation of suppliers in a tiered system may also result in potential cost savings and improved collaboration with a select group of trusted partners.

However, the complexity of a Tiered Supply Chain brings disadvantages. One significant drawback is reduced visibility. As the supply chain extends across multiple tiers, organizations may struggle to have a comprehensive view of the entire process. This lack of visibility can lead to challenges in tracking and responding to potential disruptions. Moreover, ethical risks emerge when companies have limited oversight over lower-tier suppliers, potentially exposing organizations to issues such as labour exploitation, environmental concerns, or violations of ethical standards.

In conclusion, supply chain management has evolved into a complex discipline due to the forces of globalization and consumer demands for speed and quality. The Tiered Supply Chain model, driven by these factors, presents both advantages and disadvantages. While managing fewer suppliers can enhance efficiency, the trade-off includes diminished visibility and increased ethical risks.

Organizations must carefully evaluate the specific needs of their operations and weigh the benefits against the challenges when deciding whether to adopt a Tiered Supply Chain. In this intricate landscape, the ability to balance complexity and efficiency becomes paramount for sustained success in the global marketplace.

Tutor Notes

- Definition of supply chain management is from p.5

- Drivers, advantages and disadvantages p.9

- This topic used to be much more in depth in the old syllabus and has been drastically simplified in the new study guide. The guide is actually quite light on this topic stating simply that "globalisation and localisation are both drivers of using supply chain tiering". If you don't work in manufacturing, or an industry that uses supply chain tiering, this concept may be a bit alien to you and I'd recommend doing a little extra research. The best example of supply chain tiering is in car manufacturing- and that would be a good example to use in an essay. Some additional links for research:

- Supplier Tiers: What's The Difference Between Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 | PLANERGY Software

- Sustainable Sourcing - Definition, Examples, Benefits & Best Practices (brightest.io)

- <https://youtu.be/fs1rDgBQy1M>

質問 # 46

Explain what is meant by the term Inventory Management System? Describe MRP and ERP systems explaining when they are used and the advantages and disadvantages of using them (25 points)

正解:

解説:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

How to approach this question:

- Definition of Inventory Management System - a system, usually a piece of digital software, that helps an organisation manage their inventory. It oversees the process of ordering stock, receiving it, storing it and converting it into finished goods. Used predominantly in manufacturing organisations. MRP and ERP are types of IMS.
- MRP - Material Requirements Planning- this is a planning, scheduling, and inventory control system used to manage manufacturing processes. Most MRP systems are software-based. The aim is to automate and improve the efficiency of ordering and processing raw materials.
- ERP - Enterprise Resource Planning - this system uses MRP but also includes other operations such as finance, so allows for budgeting and forecasting, and customer relations. ERP gives an organisation a more holistic overview compared to MRP which just focuses on manufacturing.
- When they are used - predominantly in the manufacturing industry for the ordering of goods. Not used for services. Used when there is a lot of maths involved in figuring out how much of something to order and when e.g. a chocolate manufacturer who needs to produce 50,000 chocolate bars a day. MRP / ERP helps the organisation know what to order, how much and when. It helps achieve the 5 Rights of Procurement.
- Advantages - the advantages of MRP and ERP are very similar and in most cases the same: more accurate than manual processes, quicker response times, automated process frees up people to complete more added value tasks, flexibility, has real time information to inform on decision making, improved responsiveness to customers, improved supply chain management, reduction in costs.
- Disadvantages - expensive, complicated, can break down or be hacked (as they're digital systems), only as good as the information put into them. training required to use.

Example Essay:

IMS

An Inventory Management System (IMS) is a software application or set of tools designed to oversee and optimize the management of a company's inventory. The primary goal of an inventory management system is to maintain an accurate record of stock levels, streamline the procurement process, and ensure efficient order fulfilment. This system plays a crucial role in supporting businesses by helping them avoid stockouts, reduce excess inventory, and enhance overall supply chain efficiency.

Inventory Management Systems have the following functions: demand management (which assists with forecasting, and helps the avoidance of overstocking), helps to control stock levels (by stating minimum and maximum levels), replenishment of stock in line with policies, allows automatic reordering when stock levels get low, tracks stock movements (e.g. around a warehouse), allows communication with suppliers and end users, and helps increase safety by ensuring stock isn't damaged or deteriorating.

MRP

MRP stands for Material Requirements Planning, and it is a computer-based inventory management and production planning system used by businesses to optimize the management of materials, components, and finished products in the manufacturing process. MRP is a key component of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems, focusing specifically on the planning and control of materials and production resources.

MRP systems uses 3 main modules: 1. Master Production Schedule- information on customer orders, forecast orders, customer requirements and stock orders 2. Bill of Materials - the recipe / breakdown of components of the finished product and 3. Inventory Status File - tells you the current stock levels.

How MRP works- For example, a customer wants to order a new sofa. 1. input the customer order into MRP 2.

Check finished stock and if there's a sofa, give the customer that sofa. If there isn't a sofa in stock, the MRP system will look at the Bill of Materials- looking at individual materials needed to make the sofa and will order these, factoring in lead times 3. confirm to customer what the lead time is on getting their new sofa, based on delivery time of materials and time to make it.

MRP is a simple system - it doesn't take into account other business processes and can go wrong due to inaccurate or outdated information.

Advantages of the MRP process include the assurance that materials and components will be available when needed, minimised inventory levels, reduced customer lead times, optimised inventory management, and improved overall customer satisfaction.

Disadvantages to the MRP process include a heavy reliance on input data accuracy (garbage in, garbage out), the high cost to implement, and a lack of flexibility when it comes to the production schedule.

ERP

This is business management software which is used to collect, store, manage, and interpret data from many business activities. It uses MRP but also includes other operations such as finance, HR and customer services.

Therefore it's more powerful than MRP. Where MRP can tell you how much of something to order and what the lead times are, ERP can also consider how many staff are available each day (by looking at holidays and sickness) and factor this into the manufacturing process. It can also produce accurate financial data, manage customer and supplier relationships.

ERP facilitates information flow between all business functions and manages connections to outside stakeholders. SAP and Oracle are examples of ERP systems. There is also ERP II - this extends the system to include links with suppliers and supply chain stakeholders One of the primary advantages of implementing an ERP system is the integration of information across various departments. By providing a unified view of an organization's operations, an ERP system ensures that different functions work with synchronized and consistent data, fostering improved decision-making and collaboration.

Operational efficiency is another significant benefit of ERP systems. Through the automation of routine tasks and streamlined processes, organizations can achieve greater efficiency, reduce manual errors, and enhance overall productivity.

However, one of the primary disadvantages is the high initial implementation costs. Organizations must invest in software licenses, training programs, and customization to align the ERP system with their specific needs.

The complexity of ERP systems and potential customization challenges can pose difficulties, requiring expertise and resources for successful implementation.

Resistance to change among employees is a common hurdle when introducing ERP systems. Employees may be hesitant to adopt new processes and technologies, leading to a slower transition period and potential inefficiencies during the learning curve.

Organizations also become dependent on ERP vendors for updates, support, and maintenance, and switching vendors can be disruptive and costly.

In conclusion, while MRP and ERP systems offer numerous advantages in terms of operational efficiency, data integration, and strategic planning, organizations must carefully weigh these benefits against the associated challenges. A well-planned and effectively implemented system can contribute significantly to an organization's success, but the decision to adopt such a system should be approached with a thorough understanding of both its advantages and potential drawbacks.

Tutor Notes

- This is a really hard topic if you don't have a manufacturing background. The way I think about it is this- imagine you're Cadbury's and you're coming up to Easter. How much sugar do you need to buy and when do you need to buy it in order to make all your Easter Eggs? Hard question right? Well MRP / ERP is the clever software that figures that all out for you. It will tell you how much sugar needs to be bought on what day, in order for the delivery time to be right for manufacturing. It will consider storage costs and how quickly Easter Eggs get made in the factory. It's honestly so clever. Feel free to use that example in your essay. Examples like that show the examiner you understand the topic.

- Although they're fabulous systems, using MRP and ERP systems doesn't guarantee success- at the end of the day they're just software- the key to success is in the accuracy of the data that's inputted into the systems and how the systems are used. That would make a strong conclusion.

- This is a good simple video that explains the topic: What is Materials Requirement Planning (MRP)?

(youtube.com) I also like watching How Its Made - a documentary series about factory life. You can find it on BBC Iplayer. If you don't have a manufacturing background it helps give context to some of these dry subjects like MRP and Just-in-Time manufacturing.

- LO 3.4 p. 175

質問 # 47

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