

# L5M1 Latest Exam Experience | L5M1 Formal Test



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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 STEEPLD 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>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 3	<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>

Topic 4	<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>
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### CIPS Managing Teams and Individuals Sample Questions (Q37-Q42):

#### NEW QUESTION # 37

What is meant by the 'systems approach' and 'contingency approach' to management? (20 points)

#### Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Theories of management provide different ways of understanding how organisations can be led effectively. Two important perspectives are the systems approach and the contingency approach. Both move beyond early "one best way" classical theories and instead highlight the complexity and adaptability required in modern organisations.

The systems approach views the organisation as an integrated whole made up of interdependent subsystems such as HR, finance, operations and procurement. It is based on systems theory, seeing organisations as "open systems" that interact with their external environment. Inputs such as people, information and resources are transformed into outputs such as products, services and stakeholder value. Feedback loops are essential to monitor performance and make adjustments. The key idea is synergy - the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. For example, in procurement, sourcing decisions influence not only supplier performance but also finance (budgets), operations (continuity), and CSR (sustainability). A systems approach ensures that procurement strategies are aligned to wider organisational goals and continuous improvement.

The contingency approach develops this idea further, arguing that there is no universal way to manage. Instead, the best approach depends on situational factors such as environment, size, technology, or workforce capability. It rejects "one-size-fits-all" rules and stresses that management must adapt. For example, in a stable market, a hierarchical structure with formal rules may work well, whereas in volatile markets, flexible and decentralised decision-making is more effective. In procurement, this could mean using strict process controls for routine, low-value items, but adopting agile, collaborative approaches when managing strategic supplier partnerships in uncertain global supply chains.

In comparison, the systems approach gives managers a holistic view of how different parts of the organisation connect and interact with the external environment, while the contingency approach emphasises adaptability and situational leadership. Together, they suggest that effective managers need both a broad systems perspective and the ability to tailor their approach depending on context. In conclusion, the systems approach stresses coordination, integration and feedback across the organisation, while the contingency approach stresses flexibility and the idea that "it depends." Both are highly relevant to procurement and supply leaders who must integrate across functions and adapt strategies to dynamic and uncertain supply environments.

#### NEW QUESTION # 38

What is meant by intrinsic and extrinsic motivation? (10 points). Describe one theory of motivation (15 points).

#### Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Intrinsic and extrinsic motivation (10 points):

Motivation refers to the internal drive that influences people's behaviour and performance.

Intrinsic motivation comes from within the individual and is linked to personal satisfaction, enjoyment, achievement, or a sense of purpose. For example, a procurement professional may feel motivated by solving complex supplier challenges or contributing to sustainability goals.

Extrinsic motivation comes from external rewards such as pay, bonuses, promotions, or recognition. For instance, a buyer might be motivated by achieving cost savings to receive a financial bonus.

Both types of motivation are important in the workplace. Intrinsic motivation sustains long-term commitment, while extrinsic rewards provide short-term incentives. Effective managers balance both to maximise performance.

One theory of motivation (15 points):

A widely used theory is Herzberg's Two-Factor Theory. Herzberg identified two sets of factors that influence motivation:

Hygiene factors - these do not motivate if present, but if absent, they cause dissatisfaction. Examples include salary, working conditions, policies, supervision, and job security. For example, if procurement staff lack proper tools or fair pay, they may feel dissatisfied, but simply improving pay will not necessarily make them highly motivated.

Motivators - these are intrinsic to the job and lead to satisfaction and motivation. They include achievement, recognition, responsibility, personal growth, and meaningful work. For instance, giving a buyer responsibility to lead a supplier negotiation or recognising their success increases intrinsic motivation.

Herzberg's theory highlights that managers cannot rely on pay and policies alone. They must remove dissatisfaction by ensuring fair hygiene factors and then boost engagement by providing motivators. In procurement, this could mean ensuring fair contracts, proper systems, and clear processes (hygiene factors), while also giving staff opportunities for training, career progression, and recognition (motivators).

Conclusion:

Intrinsic motivation is about internal satisfaction, while extrinsic motivation relies on external rewards. Herzberg's theory shows that managers should address hygiene factors to avoid dissatisfaction but must focus on motivators to truly drive performance. For procurement and supply leaders, combining both ensures staff remain engaged, loyal, and productive.

### NEW QUESTION # 39

Caleb is the newly appointed CEO of Star Fish Limited, a company that manufactures and installs gym equipment. The company employs 100 people and has dedicated teams for Finance, Product Development and Procurement. Some staff work from the office and some staff work remotely from home. Contrast and provide an example of a formal and informal group that may form at this organisation. What factors should Caleb be aware of that can contribute to group formations? (25 points)

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Formal vs Informal Groups (10-12 marks):

Formal groups are those deliberately created by management to achieve organisational objectives. They have defined structures, roles, and reporting lines. In Star Fish Ltd, examples include the Procurement Team, responsible for sourcing suppliers and managing contracts. This group has clear goals, formal leadership, and measurable outputs.

By contrast, informal groups arise naturally among employees based on social interactions, common interests, or personal relationships. They are not officially sanctioned but strongly influence behaviour. At Star Fish Ltd, an example could be a fitness club of employees who exercise together during breaks or a WhatsApp group among remote workers who support each other socially. These groups provide belonging and morale but may also resist management decisions if excluded.

Factors Influencing Group Formation (12-15 marks):

Common goals and tasks - People working on shared objectives, such as the Product Development Team working on new gym equipment, naturally form groups.

Geography and work arrangements - Staff working remotely may form virtual support groups, while office-based staff bond more through daily interactions.

Shared interests and values - Employees passionate about fitness or sustainability may form informal networks within the company.

Friendship and social needs - Based on Maslow's hierarchy, people seek belonging. Friendships often develop into informal groups.

Leadership and influence - Charismatic or respected individuals may attract followers, leading to informal group formation around their personality.

Organisational culture - A collaborative culture encourages group formation for teamwork, while a competitive culture may create cliques or rival groups.

Technology and communication platforms - With remote work, online groups (Teams, Slack, WhatsApp) facilitate informal

interaction and knowledge sharing.

Conclusion:

At Star Fish Ltd, formal groups like the Procurement Department are designed to deliver organisational objectives, while informal groups such as fitness clubs or virtual chat groups form naturally. Caleb must recognise that both types of groups are powerful. Formal groups deliver results, but informal groups influence morale, motivation, and resistance to change. By understanding the factors driving group formation, Caleb can harness both to build cohesion, encourage collaboration, and support the organisation's success.

#### **NEW QUESTION # 40**

How can following the CIPS code of conduct ensure a procurement professional remains unbiased and acts ethically? (25 points).

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

The CIPS Code of Conduct sets out the ethical standards expected of procurement professionals. By adhering to this code, buyers are guided to remain impartial, transparent, and fair in all their decisions, ensuring that supplier selection and procurement practices are ethical and free from bias.

Firstly, the code requires professionals to act with integrity. This means avoiding conflicts of interest, declaring personal relationships with suppliers, and making decisions based on facts and evidence rather than personal preferences. For example, a buyer cannot award a contract to a supplier owned by a friend without declaring the relationship.

Secondly, the code emphasises transparency and fairness. Procurement professionals must ensure all suppliers are treated equally and given the same information during tendering processes. This prevents favouritism or hidden advantages for certain suppliers.

Thirdly, the code demands professional competence. This includes basing supplier decisions on objective evaluation criteria such as cost, quality, risk, and sustainability, rather than subjective or biased views. By applying standard evaluation models, professionals avoid unconscious bias.

Fourthly, the code promotes accountability. Procurement professionals are expected to keep proper records of decisions and provide audit trails. This reduces the opportunity for unethical practices such as bribery or corruption and ensures decisions can be justified.

Finally, the code supports sustainability and social responsibility. By considering environmental, ethical, and social factors in procurement, professionals act in the best interests of society and avoid discriminatory or exploitative practices.

Conclusion:

By following the CIPS Code of Conduct, procurement professionals remain unbiased by avoiding conflicts of interest, ensuring fairness, and using objective criteria. They also act ethically by maintaining transparency, accountability, and responsibility to wider society. This builds trust with stakeholders, improves supplier relationships, and protects the reputation of both the individual and their organisation.

#### **NEW QUESTION # 41**

How can a procurement manager embed a culture of life-long learning within the department? (25 points).

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

A culture of lifelong learning means that employees see continuous development as a normal part of their work, rather than a one-off event. For a procurement manager, embedding this culture requires leadership, systems, and consistent encouragement.

The first step is to lead by example. If the procurement manager demonstrates commitment to professional learning (e.g., pursuing CIPS qualifications or attending industry events), team members are more likely to follow. Role-modelling is a powerful way of embedding culture.

Secondly, the manager can create structured training and development programmes. This could include formal training courses on negotiation, category management, or e-procurement systems, combined with informal methods like mentoring and peer learning. Having clear learning pathways ensures staff know how to develop their careers.

Thirdly, the manager should encourage knowledge sharing within the team. This may involve "lunch and learn" sessions, after-action reviews of sourcing projects, or creating knowledge repositories where lessons learned are stored for future use. Sharing experiences embeds learning into daily work.

Fourthly, embedding learning into performance management is key. Training and development goals should be included in staff

