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ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY (CIPS)

L4M1 – MANAGING TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CHAPTER ONE

L5M1 Chapter one questions & answers

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CIPS L5M1 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

CIPS Managing Teams and Individuals Sample Questions (Q33-Q38):

NEW QUESTION # 33

(Explain 5 different metaphors that can be used to describe an organisation)

Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Organisations can be understood in many different ways through metaphors, which help managers and leaders interpret behaviour, culture and performance. Morgan's metaphors are widely used to explain these perspectives. Five key metaphors are explained below.

The first metaphor is the organisation as a machine. Here the business is seen like a well-oiled mechanism with standardised processes, clear rules, hierarchy and repeatable outputs. This works well for efficiency and control, for example in a procurement shared services function, but can be rigid and demotivating if flexibility and creativity are required.

The second is the organisation as an organism. This views the business as a living system that must adapt to its environment. Structures, processes and leadership styles must "fit" the context, whether technological, market-driven or human needs. In procurement, this could be seen when category teams adapt to sudden supply market changes, showing flexibility to survive in a dynamic environment.

The third is the organisation as a brain. This emphasises learning, feedback loops, and knowledge-sharing, where continuous improvement and innovation are central. Leaders encourage collaboration, reflection and data-driven decision-making. For procurement, this might be using spend analytics, lessons learned from supplier negotiations, and knowledge sharing across teams to improve sourcing strategies.

The fourth metaphor is the organisation as a culture. This highlights the shared values, beliefs and rituals that shape "how things are done." Leadership here involves role-modelling behaviours, building ethical cultures, and maintaining consistency between words and actions. In procurement, culture may show through an organisation's commitment to ethical sourcing, sustainability, and supplier diversity.

Finally, the organisation as a political system sees it as an arena of power and influence where decisions are made through negotiation, persuasion and coalition-building. Managers must understand power bases and stakeholder interests. In procurement, for instance, winning senior approval for a sourcing strategy may require influencing finance, operations, and CSR teams with different agendas.

In summary, each metaphor offers insights into how organisations function. The machine focuses on control, the organism on adaptability, the brain on learning, the culture on shared values, and the political system on power and influence. Good leaders in procurement should recognise that all these metaphors may apply in different situations, and use them to manage individuals and teams more effectively.

NEW QUESTION # 34

Explain the '2 factor hygiene theory' of motivation and how this can affect the motivation of employees within an organisation (25 points).

Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

The Two-Factor Hygiene Theory, developed by Frederick Herzberg, explains what drives employee satisfaction and dissatisfaction at work. Herzberg argued that there are two categories of factors that affect motivation.

The first category is Hygiene Factors. These are extrinsic elements such as pay, working conditions, company policies, job security and supervision. If these are poor or absent, employees become dissatisfied. However, their presence alone does not create motivation - they simply prevent dissatisfaction. For example, in procurement, if buyers do not have fair pay or adequate systems, they will feel frustrated, but improving pay alone will not guarantee enthusiasm or creativity.

The second category is Motivators. These are intrinsic to the job itself, such as achievement, recognition, responsibility, advancement, and personal growth. When present, these factors actively increase motivation and job satisfaction. For instance, giving a procurement professional ownership of a supplier relationship, recognising their success in a negotiation, or offering training opportunities can significantly boost motivation.

The impact of Herzberg's theory on motivation is significant. Managers cannot rely only on hygiene factors like pay and working conditions to motivate staff. These need to be in place to avoid dissatisfaction, but true motivation comes from providing meaningful work, opportunities for growth, and recognition.

In practice, this means managers should:

Ensure hygiene factors are adequate (fair pay, safe environment, supportive policies).

Focus on motivators such as giving responsibility, offering progression pathways, and recognising achievement.

Design jobs with variety and challenge, rather than only repetitive tasks.

Encourage intrinsic motivation through empowerment and involvement in decision-making.

In procurement and supply, applying Herzberg's theory could mean ensuring staff have reliable systems and clear processes (hygiene), while also providing opportunities to lead supplier negotiations, recognise cost savings achievements, or involve staff in strategic sourcing projects (motivators).

In conclusion, Herzberg's Two-Factor Theory shows that avoiding dissatisfaction through hygiene factors is not enough. Managers must also provide motivators to create true engagement and drive performance. For procurement leaders, balancing both sets of factors is essential for building high-performing, motivated teams.

NEW QUESTION # 35

What is the 'human relations' approach to management? (20 points)

Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

The human relations approach to management developed in the 1930s and 1940s as a reaction against earlier mechanistic approaches such as Taylorism and bureaucracy. It emphasises that employees are not just motivated by money and rules, but also by social needs, relationships, and recognition. The approach highlights the importance of communication, teamwork, leadership

style, and employee well-being in achieving organisational success.

The foundation of this school came from the Hawthorne Studies (Elton Mayo), which showed that productivity improved not just because of physical conditions, but because workers felt valued and observed. This demonstrated the importance of social factors such as morale, group belonging, and management attention.

Key principles of the human relations approach include:

Focus on people rather than just processes - recognising employees as individuals with social and emotional needs.

Motivation through recognition and belonging - linking to theories such as Maslow's hierarchy of needs and Herzberg's motivators.

Leadership style matters - supportive, participative leadership fosters engagement, unlike autocratic control.

Team dynamics are critical - informal groups, communication patterns, and cooperation influence productivity.

Job satisfaction drives performance - happy, respected employees are more productive and loyal.

Advantages of the human relations approach include higher employee engagement, improved morale, stronger teamwork, and reduced turnover. It recognises employees as assets rather than costs.

Disadvantages include the risk of overemphasising relationships at the expense of efficiency or results, and the possibility of managers manipulating employees through "false concern." It can also be less effective in highly standardised, rule-bound environments where compliance is critical.

In procurement, the human relations approach may be applied by creating strong team cohesion, involving staff in decision-making, recognising contributions, and offering development opportunities. For example, involving buyers in supplier strategy discussions and giving recognition for successful negotiations can boost morale and performance.

In conclusion, the human relations approach recognises that people are motivated by social and psychological needs, not just financial incentives. It highlights the importance of communication, leadership, and teamwork in driving performance. While it should be balanced with attention to efficiency, it remains highly relevant for modern managers in creating motivated and productive teams.

NEW QUESTION # 36

Describe the key principles of the Taylorism school of thought on Management (20 points)

Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

The Taylorism school of thought, also known as Scientific Management, was developed by Frederick Winslow Taylor in the early 20th century. It aimed to improve efficiency and productivity by applying systematic, scientific methods to the management of work. Its key principles can be summarised as follows.

The first principle is the scientific study of work. Taylor rejected traditional "rule of thumb" methods, instead advocating time-and-motion studies to identify the most efficient way of completing tasks. This broke jobs into smaller, measurable steps.

Secondly, Taylor emphasised the division of labour and specialisation. Workers should focus on narrowly defined tasks, allowing them to become faster and more efficient, similar to parts in a machine.

Thirdly, he argued for scientific selection and training of workers. Instead of leaving workers to train themselves, managers should select the right person for the job and provide formal training in the "one best way" to complete tasks.

Fourthly, Taylor stressed managerial control and supervision. He believed management should plan, organise and set methods, while workers should focus on carrying them out. This created a strong separation between planning and execution.

Finally, Taylor promoted financial incentives as motivators. He assumed that workers are primarily motivated by pay, so piece-rate systems and performance-based rewards were used to encourage higher output.

Taylorism brought many benefits, such as increased productivity, efficiency, and predictability in mass production industries.

However, it also attracted criticism for treating workers like machines, reducing autonomy, and ignoring social and psychological needs. From a modern procurement perspective, its ideas are still visible in standardised processes such as purchase-to-pay systems, KPIs, and efficiency-driven shared services. However, organisations today often balance these principles with more human-centred approaches to motivation and teamwork.

In conclusion, the key principles of Taylorism were scientific analysis of work, specialisation, scientific selection and training, strict managerial control, and financial incentives. While its focus on efficiency shaped early management thinking, modern leaders must also consider motivation, empowerment, and adaptability to achieve sustainable success.

NEW QUESTION # 37

ABC Ltd is a software development company and employs around 100 people. It's executive Board of Directors is considering investing more resources in employee development. Briefly describe what is meant by employee development and explain the positive impacts of lifelong learning (25 points).

Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Part A - Employee Development (5-8 marks):

Employee development refers to the ongoing process of improving staff knowledge, skills, and behaviours to enhance their performance and career progression. It includes both formal methods such as training courses, mentoring, and professional qualifications, and informal methods such as on-the-job learning, self-directed study, and peer collaboration. For ABC Ltd, employee development could mean providing software engineers with technical training, leadership coaching, or professional certifications to improve capability and engagement.

Part B - Positive Impacts of Lifelong Learning (15-18 marks):

Improved performance and productivity: Continuous learning ensures employees remain skilled in the latest technologies, enabling ABC Ltd to deliver innovative software solutions and maintain competitiveness.

Employee motivation and morale: When staff see the company investing in their development, they feel valued, which increases engagement and reduces alienation.

Retention and loyalty: Lifelong learning encourages employees to stay with the organisation as they see opportunities for growth, reducing turnover costs.

Adaptability and resilience: In fast-moving sectors such as software, continuous learning helps staff adapt to new tools, coding languages, and market changes, ensuring the business remains agile.

Innovation and creativity: Learning stimulates new ideas and problem-solving approaches, leading to more effective solutions in product development and project delivery.

Career progression and leadership pipeline: Lifelong learning develops not only technical skills but also soft skills such as communication, negotiation, and leadership, building the next generation of managers.

Conclusion:




Employee development is about building skills, knowledge, and behaviours to improve individual and organisational performance. Lifelong learning delivers multiple benefits, including productivity, innovation, motivation, and retention. For ABC Ltd, investing in continuous development will strengthen competitiveness, employee satisfaction, and long-term organisational success.

NEW QUESTION # 38

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