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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>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 (Q27-Q32):

### NEW QUESTION # 27

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 # 28

What is meant by group conformity? In what ways can 'Groupthink' affect the behaviour of a group? (25 points)

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Group Conformity (10 marks):

Group conformity refers to the tendency of individuals to align their attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours with the norms of the group to which they belong. People conform because they want acceptance, fear rejection, or assume the group's judgement is correct.

Conformity ensures cohesion and cooperation but may limit creativity. For example, in procurement, a junior buyer may adopt the team's approach to negotiations, even if they personally believe another method could achieve better results.

Groupthink and its Effects (15 marks):

'Groupthink', a term developed by Irving Janis, occurs when the desire for consensus overrides realistic appraisal of alternatives.

Members suppress doubts, ignore risks, and fail to voice disagreements to maintain harmony. This can seriously affect group behaviour in several ways:

Illusion of invulnerability - Groups may become overconfident and underestimate risks. For example, a procurement team might agree to single-source a supplier without considering supply chain risks.

Suppression of dissent - Members may withhold concerns to avoid conflict. This stifles creativity and prevents better solutions from being considered.

Pressure for uniformity - Individuals may feel obliged to agree even when they disagree. A buyer may stay silent when senior managers push for a supplier contract, even if they know the supplier has performance issues.

Biased decision-making - Groups may ignore warning signs or alternative perspectives, leading to flawed decisions. In procurement, this could mean overlooking ethical issues in a supplier relationship to maintain harmony with stakeholders.

Reduced accountability - Responsibility is shared across the group, so individuals may feel less accountable for poor decisions.

Groupthink can therefore lead to poor decision-making, increased risk, and lost opportunities. It is particularly dangerous in high-stakes environments like procurement, where mistakes in supplier selection or contract negotiation can damage cost, quality, and reputation.

Conclusion:

Group conformity means individuals adapt to group norms to gain acceptance, while groupthink is a negative consequence where consensus is prioritised over critical evaluation. For managers, recognising the risk of groupthink is vital. By encouraging open discussion, appointing a "devil's advocate," and welcoming diverse views, leaders can ensure group decisions are both inclusive and effective.

## NEW QUESTION # 29

Explain what is meant by a heterogeneous / diverse workforce and explain one personality model that a manager could use to investigate the personalities within his/her team (25 points)

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

A heterogeneous or diverse workforce refers to a group of employees with varied characteristics, backgrounds, and perspectives.

Diversity can relate to visible differences such as age, gender, ethnicity, or disability, as well as invisible factors like personality, values, experiences, and thinking styles. A diverse workforce is valuable because it brings multiple perspectives, creativity, and innovation, which can improve decision-making and problem-solving. However, it can also create challenges in communication, conflict management, and team cohesion if not managed effectively.

In procurement and supply management, diversity can mean having team members from different professional disciplines, cultural backgrounds, or experience levels. This mix can lead to better supplier negotiations, innovation in category strategies, and greater sensitivity to global ethical standards. For managers, the challenge lies in understanding and leveraging individual differences to build cohesive, high-performing teams.

One useful personality model for understanding team members is the Big Five Personality Traits (OCEAN model). This model is widely accepted in psychology and provides a framework for identifying personality differences across five dimensions:

Openness to Experience - measures creativity, curiosity, and willingness to try new things. In procurement, high openness could support innovation in supplier strategies.

Conscientiousness - relates to organisation, responsibility, and dependability. A conscientious buyer is likely to follow compliance rules and deliver accurate work.

Extraversion - reflects sociability, assertiveness, and energy. Extroverts may excel in supplier negotiations and stakeholder engagement.

Agreeableness - indicates cooperation, empathy, and trust. Highly agreeable individuals may be effective in collaboration but could avoid conflict even when necessary.

Neuroticism (Emotional Stability) - refers to sensitivity to stress and emotional control. Low neuroticism (high stability) is ideal in high-pressure procurement negotiations.

By applying this model, a manager can gain insights into the personalities of their team, allocate roles effectively, and provide tailored support. For example, a procurement leader may assign highly conscientious individuals to compliance-heavy processes, while extroverts may be placed in supplier-facing roles.

The use of the Big Five also helps managers balance team dynamics, identify potential conflict, and design training or coaching interventions. Understanding personality traits supports motivation strategies (e.g., Herzberg, Maslow), builds stronger communication, and enhances trust within diverse teams.

In conclusion, a heterogeneous workforce brings significant benefits but requires skilful management to harness its potential. The Big Five Personality Traits provide a structured and evidence-based tool for understanding individuals, enabling managers to lead diverse teams more effectively and align strengths with organisational goals.

### NEW QUESTION # 30

Discuss 5 ways in which a Procurement Manager may approach conflict. You may refer to the Thomas Kilmann model in your answer (25 points).

#### Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Conflict is common in organisations and in procurement, where competing priorities, supplier issues, and internal pressures often clash. The Thomas-Kilman Conflict Model identifies five different approaches managers may use to handle conflict, depending on the situation and the desired outcome.

The first approach is Competing (high concern for task, low concern for people). Here the manager asserts their own position to achieve quick results, even at the expense of relationships. For example, a procurement manager may insist on enforcing compliance with tendering rules despite stakeholder resistance. This is effective in crises but can harm morale if overused.

The second is Accommodating (low concern for task, high concern for people). In this style, the manager prioritises relationships by giving way to the other party's needs. For instance, a procurement manager might accept a stakeholder's preferred supplier to maintain goodwill, even if it is not the cheapest option. This preserves harmony but risks poor business outcomes if used too often.

The third approach is Avoiding (low concern for both task and people). Here, the manager withdraws from the conflict or postpones action. This may be appropriate when the issue is minor or when emotions are high, giving time for reflection. However, in procurement, avoiding conflict with a poor-performing supplier may worsen problems over time.

The fourth is Collaborating (high concern for both task and people). This involves working with others to find win-win solutions. For example, a procurement manager may work with finance and operations to balance cost, quality, and sustainability objectives in supplier selection. This is often the most effective approach but requires time and trust.

Finally, Compromising (medium concern for task and people) involves each side giving up something to reach a middle ground. For instance, a procurement manager may agree to split supplier contracts between two stakeholders' preferences. This provides quick solutions but may leave all parties partially dissatisfied.

Conclusion:

A procurement manager can approach conflict through competing, accommodating, avoiding, collaborating, or compromising. Each has strengths and weaknesses. The best managers adapt their style depending on the importance of the issue, the urgency of the decision, and the relationships involved. In procurement, collaboration often delivers the most sustainable results, but flexibility across all five approaches is key.

### NEW QUESTION # 31

Tania has recently been appointed the new manager of the Procurement Department at a toilet paper manufacturer. She will line manage a team of 8, who all perform different tasks and have a varying level of ability and knowledge. She has noticed that there has been no formal training provided to the team and that some people have been asked to complete tasks they do not feel comfortable with. Overall, performance and morale are both low. Discuss the importance of 1) embedding learning into the culture and 2) role congruence in this scenario (10 points). Describe actions that Tania should take to address the issues (15 points).

#### Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Part A - Embedding Learning into the Culture (5 points):

Embedding learning into the organisational culture means creating an environment where continuous learning and development are valued and encouraged. In Tania's case, this is vital because the team has had no formal training, which contributes to low skills and low morale. A learning culture ensures employees feel supported in developing new abilities, reduces resistance to change, and prepares staff for future challenges. For procurement, this could involve training on negotiation skills, supplier relationship management, or e-procurement tools.

Part B - Role Congruence (5 points):

Role congruence means ensuring that an individual's skills, experience, and abilities match the tasks they are assigned. At present, some staff are being asked to complete tasks they are not comfortable with, which lowers confidence and morale. Aligning people's roles to their capabilities improves job satisfaction, builds confidence, and enhances performance. For example, a staff member skilled in analysis should be allocated spend analysis tasks, rather than being pushed into high-pressure supplier negotiations without support.

Part C - Actions Tania Should Take (15 points):

Training and development programmes - introduce structured training to close knowledge gaps and give staff confidence in their roles.

Role review and alignment - assess individual skills and reassign tasks to match strengths, ensuring role congruence.

Mentoring and coaching - pair experienced staff with less experienced members to support learning and build capability.

Encourage continuous learning - build learning into team culture through workshops, lunch-and-learns, and reflection sessions after projects.

Regular performance reviews - provide feedback, set development goals, and celebrate progress to improve motivation.

Empowerment and involvement - involve staff in identifying training needs and improvement ideas to increase ownership.

Recognition and morale building - acknowledge achievements to rebuild confidence and team spirit.

Conclusion:

Embedding learning into the culture ensures that development is continuous, reducing skills gaps and raising confidence. Role congruence ensures that tasks match people's abilities, improving morale and performance. For Tania, focusing on training, role alignment, coaching, and recognition will rebuild her procurement team into a skilled, motivated, and high-performing unit.

## NEW QUESTION # 32

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