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## CIPS L4M1 - Question & Answer Past exam questions

O1. Outline FIVE differences between purchasing goods and purchasing services. - correct answer 1.

Goods are tangible, services are intangible;

2. Services cannot be separated from their supplier;

3. Heterogeneity: goods are usually uniform in nature while services are unique at each delivery

4. Services 'perish' immediately on delivery whereas goods can be stored until required

5. Products are easier to specify, being tangible

O2. Explain THREE circumstances in which a competitive tendering exercise might not be the best approach to making a purchase. - correct answer 1. Urgency

2. Commercial confidentiality or national security (e.g. military organisations);

3. Value of the purchase;

4. Production costs cannot be measured accurately;

5. Price is not the only criterion for supplier selection and contract award

6. Intellectual Property Rights and monopoly

O2. Describe TWO e-sourcing tools and their use in procurement and supply. - correct answer 1. E-Catalogues

2. E-Tendering

3. E-Auction

4. Reverse Auctions

5. Online supplier evaluation data

O3. Explain the role of a shared services unit (SSU). - correct answer SSUs reflect a desire to centralise and share services

The shared service provider becomes a dedicated provider of services such as; finance, HR, IT and procurement which continue to be provided internally

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## CIPS L4M1 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Understand and analyse the need for compliance: This section measures skills of compliance officers and sector-specific procurement managers in understanding different economic and industrial sectors such as</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Understand and analyse the key steps when procuring goods or services: This section measures that skills of purchasing managers and procurement officers in identifying and evaluating stages in the sourcing process, planning, supplier selection, and contract management.</li></ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Procedures, strategies, manuals, and internal function involvement.</li></ul>

Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public, private, charity, not-for-profit, manufacturing, retail, construction, financial, agriculture, and service sectors. It also covers analyzing the impact of the public sector on procurement and supply chain activities public sector objectives, regulations, competition, accountability, and value for money. It finally covers the impact of the private sector on procurement or supply chain activities.</li> </ul>
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## **HOT Valid L4M1 Exam Papers 100% Pass | High-quality Free Scope and Influence of Procurement and Supply Exam Dumps Pass for sure**

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### **CIPS Scope and Influence of Procurement and Supply Sample Questions (Q23-Q28):**

#### **NEW QUESTION # 23**

Provide a definition of a stakeholder (5 points) and describe 3 categories of stakeholders (20 points).

#### **Answer:**

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

Essay Plan:

Definition of Stakeholder- someone who has a 'stake' or interest in the company. A person or organisation who influences and can be influenced by the company.

Categories of stakeholders:

- 1) Internal Stakeholders- these people work inside the company e.g. employees, managers etc
- 2) Connected- these people work with the company e.g. suppliers, mortgage lenders
- 3) External Stakeholders - these people are outside of the company e.g. the government, professional bodies, the local community.

Example Essay:

A stakeholder is an individual, group, or entity that has a vested interest or concern in the activities, decisions, or outcomes of an organization or project. Stakeholders are those who can be affected by or can affect the organization, and they play a crucial role in influencing its success, sustainability, and reputation.

Understanding and managing stakeholder relationships is a fundamental aspect of effective organizational governance and decision-making and there are several different types of stakeholders.

Firstly, internal stakeholders are those individuals or groups directly connected to the daily operations and management of the organization. Internal stakeholders are key to success and are arguably more vested in the company succeeding. They may depend on the company for their income / livelihood. Anyone who contributes to the company's internal functions can be considered an internal stakeholder for example:

This category includes

- 1) Employees: With a direct influence on the organization's success, employees are critical internal stakeholders. Their engagement, satisfaction, and productivity impact the overall performance.
- 2) Management and Executives: The leadership team has a significant influence on the organization's strategic direction and decision-making. Their decisions can shape the company's future.

Secondly, connected stakeholders are those individuals or groups whose interests are tied to the organization but may not be directly involved in its day-to-day operations. Connected stakeholders work alongside the organisation and often have a contractual relationship with the organisation. For example, banks, mortgage lenders, and suppliers. These stakeholders have an interest in the business succeeding, but not as much as internal stakeholders. It is important to keep these stakeholders satisfied as the organisation does depend on them to some extent. For example, it is important that the organisation has a good relationship with their bank / mortgage provider/ supplier as failing to pay what they owe may result in the stakeholders taking legal action against the organisation.

This category includes:

- 1) Shareholders/Investors: Holding financial stakes in the organization, shareholders seek a return on their investment and have a vested interest in the company's financial performance.

2) Suppliers and Partners: External entities providing goods, services, or collaboration. Their relationship with the organization impacts the quality and efficiency of its operations.

Lastly external stakeholders are entities outside the organization that can influence or be influenced by its actions. This category includes anyone who is affected by the company but who does not contribute to internal operations. They have less power to influence decisions than internal and connected stakeholders.

External stakeholders include the government, professional bodies, pressure groups and the local community.

They have quite diverse objectives and have varying ability to influence the organisation. For example, the government may be able to influence the organisation by passing legislation that regulates the industry but they do not have the power to get involved in the day-to-day affairs of the company. Pressure groups may have varying degrees of success in influencing the organisation depending on the subject matter. This category includes:

1) Customers: With a direct impact on the organization's revenue, customers are vital external stakeholders.

Their satisfaction and loyalty are crucial for the company's success.

2) Government and Regulatory Bodies: External entities overseeing industry regulations. Compliance with these regulations is crucial for the organization's reputation and legal standing.

In conclusion, stakeholders are diverse entities with a vested interest in an organization's activities. The three categories-internal, connected and external -encompass various groups that significantly influence and are influenced by the organization. Recognizing and addressing the needs and concerns of stakeholders are vital for sustainable and responsible business practices.

Tutor Notes

- The above essay is pretty short and to the point and would pass. If you want to beef out the essay you can include some of the following information for a higher score:

- Stakeholders can be harmed by, or benefit from the organisation (can affect and be affected by the organisation). For example a stakeholder can be harmed if the organisation becomes involved in illegal or immoral practices- e.g. the local community can suffer if the organisation begins to pollute the local rivers.

The local community can also benefit from the organisation through increased employment levels.

- CSR argues organisations should respect the rights of stakeholder groups

- Stakeholders are important because they may have direct or indirect influence on decisions

- The public sector has a wider and more complex range of stakeholders as they're managed on behalf of society as a whole.

They're more likely to take a range of stakeholder views into account when making decisions. However, these stakeholders are less powerful - i.e. they can't threaten market sanctions, to withdraw funding, or to quit the business etc.

- The essay doesn't specifically ask you to Map Stakeholders, but you could throw in a cheeky mention of Mendelow's Stakeholder Matrix, perhaps in the conclusion. Don't spend time describing it though- you won't get more than 1 point for mentioning it. You'd be better off spending your time giving lots and lots of examples of different types of stakeholders.

- Study guide p. 58

## NEW QUESTION # 24

Describe the main characteristics of, and differences between, procuring goods, services and construction works (25 points)

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

- there are a lot of components to this question so I would take a good 5 minutes to write out some bullet points on the characteristics of each one, and on some differences. Then from your notes make this into an essay. The mark scheme isn't 100% clear on how many characteristics and differences you need to name, so try and keep an equal split between the two areas. You would probably need 2-3 characteristics of each, and 3 differences for a good score.

- Characteristics of goods: tangible, homogeneous, items tend not to perish quickly, can be stored

- Characteristics of services: intangible, heterogeneous, inseparable (produced and consumed at the same time), no transfer of ownership, perish upon use (i.e. cannot be stored)

- Characteristics of construction work: project-based procurement, includes procuring both goods and services, complex procurement which has its own set of regulations (CDM2015).

- Differences between these

1) goods are not usually outsourced and services can be.

2) Complexity of the supply chain (goods and construction may have a complex supply chains, but service contracts usually only involve 2 parties).

3) Timescales - construction work has a designated timescale but procurement of goods could be a one off or long-term contract, services is usually a long-term contract.

Example Essay

Introduction:

Procurement is a multifaceted field, and understanding the nuances between procuring goods, services, and construction works is

pivotal for effective management. This essay explores the main characteristics that differentiate these categories.

#### Tangible / Intangible:

Goods are tangible items that can be physically seen and touched. For instance, raw materials like wheat and sugar in a manufacturing organization are tangible goods. On the other hand, services are intangible-though the results can be observed, the service itself cannot be touched. An example is a cleaning contract for a factory; while the effects of the cleaning are visible, the service itself remains intangible. Construction is usually a mixture of tangible and intangible procurement; the tangible is the construction materials such as bricks and windows, and the intangible aspect is the labour to complete the project.

#### Heterogeneous / Homogeneous:

Goods are generally homogeneous, meaning they are always the same. For example, steel purchased for manufacturing purposes will always be the same. In contrast, services are heterogeneous, varying each time they are rendered. Customer service, for instance, is inherently different each time due to the dynamic nature of customer interactions. Construction could be either heterogeneous or homogeneous depending on the project - is it a one off unique building, or is it a large housing estate of same-build properties?

#### Transfer of Ownership:

When goods are procured, there is a transfer of ownership. The product becomes the property of the buyer upon delivery and payment. In contrast, services do not involve a transfer of ownership as there is no physical entity to transfer. In construction the transfer of ownership is extremely complex and varies depending on the project. Usually the buyer will retain ownership of the land throughout the project, but on some occasions the construction company may take ownership for insurance purposes.

#### Storable (Separable/ Inseparable):

Goods are storable, allowing for purchase on one day and use on another. For example a factory can buy in plastic to be used to manufacture toys and this is stored in inventory until the time comes to make the toys.

However, services are consumed at the point of purchase, making them inseparable. The service is bought and utilized simultaneously. Services cannot be stored. This is the same for construction.

#### Ability to Outsource:

Goods are rarely outsourced, as they are typically purchased directly from suppliers. Services, on the other hand, can be easily outsourced-examples include outsourcing finance, cleaning, or security services.

Construction works are commonly outsourced, with external companies hired to execute projects.

#### Complexity of the Supply Chain:

Service contracts often involve a simple two-party relationship between the buyer and the supplier. Goods and construction, however, may have complex supply chains. For example, procuring a pen involves a supply chain with various steps, including the raw material supplier, manufacturer, and possibly a wholesaler.

Construction works often feature a tiered supply chain with subcontractors playing crucial roles.

#### Construction as a Hybrid:

Construction procurement represents a hybrid, incorporating elements of both goods and services. It involves hiring a service, such as a bricklayer for laying bricks, while also procuring the tangible goods-bricks.

Separating goods from services in construction is challenging, as they are often intertwined, and both aspects are paid for simultaneously.

#### Conclusion:

In conclusion, distinguishing between the procurement of goods, services, and construction works is essential for effective supply chain management. The tangible or intangible nature, heterogeneity, transfer of ownership, storability, outsourcing potential, and supply chain complexities offer a comprehensive framework for understanding the unique characteristics of each category. Recognizing these distinctions empowers organizations to tailor their procurement strategies to the specific challenges and dynamics associated with goods, services, and construction works.

#### Tutor Notes

- What a characteristic is can also be a difference. So for example you can say tangible is a characteristic of goods but tangibility is also the main difference between goods and services. So don't worry too much about which order to write stuff in, or doing clear sections for this type of essay. It all comes out in the wash.
- Other differences in procuring these include:
  - Costs: procuring goods such as stationary for an office will be low-cost so may not require approval, but a service contract may require management sign off. Procuring construction projects tend to be huge sums of money
  - Where the budget comes from: goods and services may be operational expenditure and construction works capital expenditure.
  - The level of risk involved in the procurement: goods tends to be quite low risk and construction high risk.
  - Types of contract involved: procuring goods may be very simple and just require a PO, services is more complex so may require a formal contract or Deed of Appointment. Construction projects will require a contract due to the high value and high risk of the purchase
- Legislation - Goods = Sale of Goods Act, Construction - CDM Regulations 2015. Construction is much more heavily regulated than services or goods. Note CDM regulations isn't part of CIPS. It's occasionally referenced in various modules but you don't have to really know what it is. Just know it's the main legislation governing the construction industry. Construction - Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015 ([hse.gov.uk](http://hse.gov.uk))
- Study guide LO 1.3.1 p. 40, but mainly p. 52 for services. NOTE the title of this learning outcome includes construction and it is hardly mentioned in the study guide. Most of the above information on construction comes from my own knowledge rather than the book.

## NEW QUESTION # 25

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)

### Answer:

Explanation:

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

## NEW QUESTION # 26

Explain, with examples, the advantages of a Procurement Department using electronic systems (25 marks)

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

- Mention of some of the following benefits with at least one example provided against each; cost savings, time savings, more efficient, higher levels of transparency, easier to access historical records to inform upon decision making, mitigates risks such as fraudulent spending, easier to track spend against budgets, ensures compliance with regulations, provides 'real-time' information, paperless communications (so more environmentally friendly), assists in Supply Chain Management and integration with supply partners.

- I'd suggest 5 is a good amount to aim for

Example Essay

Procurement stands to gain numerous benefits from the adoption of electronic systems. These electronic tools and systems bring efficiency, accuracy, transparency, and cost-effectiveness to the procurement process. Here are several compelling reasons why procurement should leverage electronic systems:

Cost savings - the use of electronic tools saves organisations money. Although there is an initial cost outlay, over time the systems will save the organisation money. For example the use of e-procurement tools can save money by accessing a wider pool of suppliers. For example, when using an e-sourcing portal, a tender may reach a larger number of suppliers- this makes the tender more competitive thus driving down prices.

Compared to traditional methods such as phoning suppliers for prices, the use of electronic portals encourages suppliers to 'sharpen their pencils' and provide the best prices in order to win work. Money is also saved as communication is digital (so there is no costs for paper and postage).

Time savings - electronic tools automate a lot of processes which saves time. An example of this is e- requisitioning tools where orders can be placed automatically by a piece of technology when quantities of a material reach a certain level. For example, in a cake manufacturing organisation they may use an MRP system which calculates how many eggs are required per day. The machine knows that when the company only have 50 eggs left, a new order needs to be issued to the supplier. The MRP system (e-requisitioning system) therefore saves time as the Procurement department doesn't have to manually pick up the phone to place the order with the supplier- it is done automatically.

Access to higher levels of information - e-Procurement gives you centralised access to all your data. You can access the system to look at historical purchases with ease compared to having to dig through folders and filing cabinets. For example, an electronic PO system will hold details of all historical POs, this means if someone has a question about a PO that was raised 4 months ago, finding the information is much easier and quicker. Some systems may also be able to provide analytical data such as changes to spend over time, or which suppliers a buyer spends the most money with. This higher level of information can help inform upon future decision making. For example, if the organisation wishes to consolidate its supplier base it would look through historical data provided by the electronic system to find out which suppliers are used the least and remove these from the 'pre-approved supplier list'. This level of data might not be available in manual systems.

Better budget tracking - using electronic systems allows for real-time information to be collected which allows Procurement Managers to see where spend is compared to forecasts and budgets. An example of this is in the use of Pre-Payment Cards - rather than giving staff members petty cash to make transactions and having to chase this up and collect receipts and change, a pre-payment card usually comes with an online portal where a manager can see what has been purchased and the remaining budget on that card for the month.

A manager may be able to see for example that a member of staff has spend £300 of their allotted £500 monthly allowance.

Higher levels of transparency and control - using E-procurement tools allows an organisation to track who is ordering what. For example, an e-requisitioning tool may allow Procurement Assistants to make purchases up to £500 but set an automatic escalation if they try to buy something of higher value. This allows for Management to have greater levels of visibility and more control over spending. Another example of transparency and control is in the use of e-sourcing tools to run a competitive tender exercise. All communication between the buyer and suppliers is tracked on the system and award letters can be sent via the system too. This

reduces the risk of information being lost.

Environmental benefits- the use of e-procurement tools means that there is less paperwork involved. For example, rather than creating a physical PO which needs to be signed by a manager, an electronic system can allow a manager to sign-off the purchase by clicking a button. This means there is no requirement for the document to be printed. This saves paper and thus has a positive on the environment. Using electronic systems may help an organisation achieve their environmental targets.

In conclusion there are numerous benefits for procurement to adopt e-procurement tools. Depending on the sector and requirements of each individualised company, some advantages may be more pertinent than others, but it is undeniable that technology is helping to shape the industry into a value adding function of organisations.

Tutor Notes

- With an essay like this you could use subheadings and number the advantages if you like. It's a good idea to do one advantage per paragraph and using formatting really helps the examiner to read your essay.
- study guide p.108

## NEW QUESTION # 27

Explain the main differences between the Public Sector and the Private Sector (25 marks)

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

Bottom of Form

Top of Form

- This is an open question. You could really talk about anything. Here's some ideas of content:

Example Essay

The public and private sectors, while both essential to a nation's economy, operate under different paradigms, primarily due to their distinct drivers, stakeholders, regulations, procurement aims, and supplier relationships.

Drivers

The most fundamental difference lies in their drivers. Private sector organizations are primarily profit-driven; their existence hinges on their ability to generate profits. This profit influences their strategies, operations, and overall objectives. Conversely, public sector organizations are not driven by profit. Funded by taxpayer money, their primary objective is to deliver services effectively and efficiently to the public. Their success is measured not in financial terms, but in how well they meet the service levels required by the citizens who finance them through taxes.

Stakeholders

The range and influence of stakeholders in the two sectors also differ markedly. In the public sector, the stakeholder base is much broader, encompassing every member of society who interacts with or benefits from public services like healthcare, policing, and road maintenance. However, these stakeholders typically have less power to influence policy or practices. In contrast, stakeholders in the private sector, such as shareholders and customers, often have a more significant influence on company policies and practices. The private sector's narrower stakeholder base allows for more direct impact and influence from these groups.

Regulations

Regulations in the public sector are generally more stringent than in the private sector. Public sector entities, governed by regulations like PCR 2015, must demonstrate sound procurement practices and are accountable to society at large. This contrasts with the private sector, where companies have more latitude in choosing suppliers and are not obliged to justify their decisions publicly. The private sector faces fewer regulatory constraints, allowing for more flexibility in business decisions.

Procurement Aims

Procurement in the public sector is guided by the principles of efficiency, economy, and effectiveness, often summarized as the '3 Es'. The focus is on achieving value for money, considering both quality and price. In contrast, private sector procurement is more diverse in its aims, reflecting the organization's specific goals, which could range from profit maximization to innovation or sustainability. The private sector's procurement decisions are more closely aligned with the organization's unique values and objectives.

Supplier Relationships

Finally, the nature of supplier relationships differs significantly between the two sectors. The public sector is mandated to maintain a certain distance from its suppliers, ensuring equal treatment and open competition, as dictated by regulations like the PCR. This contrasts with the private sector, where companies are free to develop closer, more strategic relationships with preferred suppliers. The private sector can engage in practices like partnerships and Early Supplier Involvement, which are typically not permissible in the public sector due to the need for impartiality and fairness.

In summary, while both sectors aim to deliver services or products effectively, the public sector's focus on service delivery for the public good, stringent regulations, broad stakeholder base, and specific procurement principles, sets it apart from the private sector's profit-driven, flexible, and more narrowly focused approach.

- At Level 4 the questions are usually explain or describe, so don't worry too much about doing an in depth 'compare and contrast' style of answer. They don't expect that level of detail here. Simply saying Public Sector does X and Private Sector does Y is all you need.
- I have mentioned PCR 2015 - if you're taking this exam in 2025 you may need to update this reference with the new regulations.
- LO 4.3 p.220 / p. 226

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