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CIPS L5M1 Managing Teams and Individuals

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With the rapid development of the world economy, it has been universally accepted that a growing number of people have longed to become the social elite. However, the competition of becoming the social elite is fierce for all people. The L5M1 exam will be a shortcut for a lot of people who desire to be the social elite. If you try your best to prepare for the L5M1 Exam and get the related certification in a short time, it will be easier for you to receive the attention from many leaders of the big company.

CIPS L5M1 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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 2	<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 3	<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 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.

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CIPS Managing Teams and Individuals Sample Questions (Q21-Q26):

NEW QUESTION # 21

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 # 22

Describe FIVE types of power that a stakeholder may have and compare how they may interact with the procurement department (25 points).

Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Stakeholders can exert influence over procurement decisions in different ways. French and Raven identified five types of power that stakeholders may hold. Each has different implications for how procurement interacts with them.

1. Legitimate Power:

This comes from a stakeholder's formal position or authority. For example, a Finance Director may require procurement to comply with budgetary controls. Procurement must respect legitimate authority but can also influence decisions by providing evidence and business cases.

2. Reward Power:

This is based on the ability to provide benefits or incentives. For example, senior management may reward the procurement team with recognition or bonuses for achieving savings. Procurement can use this positively by demonstrating performance and aligning with organisational goals.

3. Coercive Power:

This is the power to punish or impose sanctions. For instance, a project manager may pressure procurement to prioritise their project by threatening escalation if deadlines are missed. Procurement must manage this carefully, balancing demands with fairness and compliance.

4. Expert Power:

This arises from specialist knowledge or skills. For example, a procurement professional with strong knowledge of supplier markets holds expert power, which can influence strategic decisions. Conversely, technical departments may hold expert power in specifying product requirements, requiring procurement to collaborate closely.

5. Referent Power:

This is based on personal relationships, respect, or charisma

a. For example, a well-liked senior stakeholder may influence procurement decisions even without formal authority. Procurement must manage these situations by maintaining objectivity while leveraging strong relationships to gain support.

Comparison of Interaction with Procurement:

Legitimate power often requires compliance, while procurement may respond with process adherence and evidence-based justification.

Reward power creates motivation for procurement, but risks short-term focus if overused.

Coercive power can create conflict and stress; procurement must use negotiation and diplomacy to manage.

Expert power can be collaborative, as procurement and stakeholders share knowledge to improve outcomes.

Referent power relies on trust and relationships, which procurement can use to build coalitions and support for initiatives.

Conclusion:

The five types of power - legitimate, reward, coercive, expert, and referent - shape how stakeholders interact with procurement.

Understanding these power bases enables procurement professionals to adapt their approach, whether through compliance, persuasion, collaboration, or relationship-building. This ensures stakeholder management supports both procurement objectives and organisational goals.

NEW QUESTION # 23

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 appraisals. For example, procurement assistants could be required to complete CPD (Continuing Professional Development) hours each year as part of their objectives.

Fifthly, the manager should encourage external engagement. Attending conferences, webinars, or supplier innovation workshops exposes staff to new ideas and best practices. In procurement, this is vital for staying ahead of supply chain trends such as sustainability or digitalisation.

Sixthly, the manager should recognise and reward learning efforts. When staff complete training, gain qualifications, or demonstrate new skills, this should be acknowledged publicly. Recognition motivates others to commit to learning.

Finally, the manager should ensure that resources and time are allocated for development. Lifelong learning will not happen if staff are overloaded with daily tasks. By scheduling training days or setting aside budgets, the manager signals that learning is valued.

Conclusion:

A procurement manager can embed lifelong learning by role-modelling development, providing structured training, encouraging knowledge sharing, linking learning to performance reviews, and recognising achievements. By creating this culture, the department becomes more skilled, innovative, and motivated, which ultimately delivers greater value to the organisation.

NEW QUESTION # 24

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-

stake 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 # 25

Describe THREE ways in which a procurement professional could be biased when selecting suppliers to work with (15 points). What are the benefits of remaining unbiased when selecting suppliers? (10 points).

Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Part A - Three Ways a Procurement Professional Could Be Biased (15 marks):

Personal Relationships / Conflicts of Interest:

A buyer may favour a supplier due to friendship, family connection, or long-standing personal ties. For example, awarding a contract to a supplier owned by a relative, even if another supplier offers better value. This undermines fairness and can damage organisational reputation.

Preference for Incumbent Suppliers (Status Quo Bias):

Professionals may repeatedly select the same suppliers simply because they are familiar, ignoring new entrants who could provide better innovation, cost savings, or sustainability. This limits competition and supplier diversity.

Cultural or Geographical Bias:

A procurement professional may favour local suppliers over international ones, or show unconscious bias against suppliers from certain regions. While local sourcing can have benefits, excluding other suppliers without objective evaluation reduces fairness and potentially increases costs.

(Other possible biases include brand preference, ignoring SMEs, or favouring suppliers who provide personal benefits - but only three are required for full marks.) Part B - Benefits of Remaining Unbiased (10 marks):

Remaining unbiased means making supplier decisions based on objective, transparent, and fair criteria such as cost, quality, delivery performance, risk, and sustainability. The benefits include:

Fairness and Transparency: All suppliers have equal opportunity, protecting the organisation's integrity and compliance with regulations.

Best Value for Money: Objective evaluation ensures the chosen supplier offers the best mix of cost, quality, and service.

Encouraging Innovation: By considering a wider pool of suppliers, procurement can benefit from new ideas and technologies.

Ethical Compliance: Avoids corruption, fraud, or bribery, maintaining alignment with the CIPS Code of Conduct.

Reputation and Trust: Stakeholders and the market see the organisation as professional and ethical, which strengthens long-term supplier relationships.

Conclusion:

Procurement professionals may show bias through personal relationships, favouring incumbents, or cultural preferences. Remaining unbiased ensures decisions are fair, transparent, and ethical, leading to better value, innovation, and stronger supplier trust. This supports both organisational objectives and the professional standards of procurement.

NEW QUESTION # 26

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