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CIPS L5M1 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details

Topic 1	<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 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 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.
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 (Q30-Q35):

NEW QUESTION # 30

What is meant by 'alienation' at work? (5 points). Describe 5 factors which can cause this (20 points).

Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Definition (5 points):

Alienation at work refers to a state where employees feel disconnected, powerless, or estranged from their job, their colleagues, or the organisation. The concept, linked to Karl Marx's theory, highlights situations where workers feel that they have little control, little purpose, and no personal fulfilment in their role. Alienation often leads to low motivation, disengagement, and reduced productivity.

Five Factors that Cause Alienation (20 points):

Repetitive and monotonous work - Jobs that involve the same routine tasks every day can make employees feel like "cogs in a machine." For example, a procurement clerk only processing invoices with no involvement in decision-making may quickly feel alienated.

Lack of autonomy - When employees have no control over how they do their work, they feel powerless. In procurement, if buyers must follow rigid procedures without input into strategy, they may feel disengaged.

Poor leadership and communication - Alienation grows when managers fail to involve employees, communicate decisions, or provide feedback. Staff may feel undervalued and excluded from organisational goals.

Weak connection to organisational purpose - If employees cannot see how their work contributes to wider goals or society, they may feel their role lacks meaning. For instance, working in a cost-cutting environment without recognition of social value or sustainability can reduce motivation.

Lack of recognition or development opportunities - When employees feel their contributions are ignored, or they see no path for growth, they disengage. In procurement, failing to recognise successful negotiations or not offering training can create a sense of alienation.

Conclusion:

Alienation occurs when employees feel disconnected from their work, leading to low morale and performance. It can be caused by repetitive tasks, lack of autonomy, poor leadership, absence of purpose, and lack of recognition. For managers, reducing alienation means creating meaningful work, involving employees in decisions, and supporting development, which leads to higher engagement and productivity in procurement and supply functions.

NEW QUESTION # 31

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 # 32

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 # 33

What is needed for a group to be effective? (15 points). Is it important that each person plays a different role within the group? (10 points).

Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Part A - What is needed for a group to be effective (15 points):

For a group to be effective, several conditions must be in place.

Firstly, the group must have clear objectives and purpose. Without shared goals, members may pull in different directions, leading to inefficiency.

Secondly, strong leadership is needed to guide the group, set direction, and balance concern for people with concern for tasks.

Leadership provides motivation and resolves conflicts.

Thirdly, good communication ensures information is shared openly, problems are raised quickly, and collaboration is smooth. In procurement, this means buyers, finance, and operations align on sourcing decisions.

Fourthly, groups need defined roles and responsibilities. Clarity prevents duplication of work and ensures accountability. For example, one person may manage supplier contracts while another handles negotiations.

Finally, trust and cooperation are essential. When group members respect and support each other, they are more willing to share knowledge, take risks, and commit to decisions. Psychological safety is key to team performance.

Part B - Importance of different roles in a group (10 points):

It is important that each person plays a different role within the group. According to Belbin's Team Roles theory, groups are more effective when individuals contribute complementary strengths. Roles may include "Shapers" who drive action, "Plants" who bring creativity, "Implementers" who turn plans into reality, and "Monitor Evaluators" who provide critical analysis.

If everyone in the group plays the same role, important skills may be missing. For example, a procurement team made up entirely of "Shapers" may generate energy but lack careful analysis, leading to poor supplier selection. Conversely, a balanced team ensures creativity, organisation, and delivery are all present.

Conclusion:

For a group to be effective, it needs clear goals, leadership, communication, defined roles, and trust. It is also important that members bring different strengths and roles, as this diversity improves problem-solving and ensures the group performs to its full potential.

NEW QUESTION # 34

(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 # 35

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