

# L5M1 Online Version & Latest L5M1 Exam Pattern



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## CIPS L5M1 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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>
Topic 2	<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 3	<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 4	<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>
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## CIPS Managing Teams and Individuals Sample Questions (Q17-Q22):

### NEW QUESTION # 17

Describe ONE model for classifying stakeholders. When communicating with different types of stakeholders, for example to notify them of an intended purchase of high value, how should this be managed by the Procurement Function of an organisation? (25 points).

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

One widely used model for classifying stakeholders is Mendelow's Power-Interest Matrix. This model categorises stakeholders based on their level of power (ability to influence decisions) and their level of interest (degree of concern in the issue). It helps managers decide how to engage with different stakeholders effectively.

High Power / High Interest - Key Players: These stakeholders must be closely managed and fully engaged. For example, the Finance Director or Hospital CEO when approving a high-value purchase. Procurement should provide detailed briefings, involve them in decision-making, and ensure their concerns are addressed.

High Power / Low Interest - Keep Satisfied: These stakeholders can influence outcomes but may not have strong interest in day-to-day procurement. For instance, regulatory bodies or legal advisors. Procurement should provide concise updates and ensure compliance to avoid dissatisfaction.

Low Power / High Interest - Keep Informed: These stakeholders care about the outcome but have limited influence. For example, end-users of medical equipment or nurses in a hospital setting. Procurement should communicate progress, seek feedback, and maintain transparency.

Low Power / Low Interest - Minimal Effort: These stakeholders require only basic information. For example, general staff not directly impacted by a procurement decision. Simple updates or summaries are enough to keep them engaged.

When communicating about a high-value purchase, the Procurement Function should tailor its communication strategy according to this classification. Key players (high power, high interest) must be involved early with full transparency, including risk assessments and supplier evaluations. Stakeholders with high interest but low power should be consulted to build trust and buy-in, while those with high power but low interest should receive enough information to stay satisfied. Procurement should also ensure consistent, professional communication that reflects the importance of the purchase and builds confidence in the process.

Conclusion:

Mendelow's Power-Interest Matrix provides a structured way to classify stakeholders. By adapting communication to each category - managing key players, keeping others satisfied or informed - the Procurement Function ensures effective stakeholder engagement, minimises resistance, and gains approval for high-value purchases.

### NEW QUESTION # 18

What is meant by emotional intelligence? (5 points). In what ways is a high emotional intelligence quotient (EQ) beneficial to the

procurement department of an organisation? (20 points)

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Definition of Emotional Intelligence (5 points):

Emotional Intelligence (EI), popularised by Daniel Goleman, is the ability to recognise, understand, and manage one's own emotions as well as the emotions of others. It involves self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills. A high EQ enables individuals to manage stress, build strong relationships, and influence others effectively.

Benefits of High EQ in Procurement (20 points):

**Improved Negotiation Skills:** Procurement professionals with high EQ can read emotions, adapt communication styles, and manage conflict effectively during supplier negotiations. This leads to stronger outcomes and sustainable supplier relationships.

**Stronger Stakeholder Management:** EQ helps buyers understand the needs and concerns of internal stakeholders (finance, operations, CSR). This fosters trust, persuasion, and collaboration in category strategies.

**Conflict Resolution:** In diverse teams or complex supply chains, conflict is common. High EQ managers can defuse tensions, listen actively, and find win-win solutions, maintaining team cohesion and supplier cooperation.

**Resilience Under Pressure:** Procurement often deals with supply crises, deadlines, or cost pressures. High EQ professionals manage stress, stay calm, and make rational decisions under pressure, maintaining credibility.

**Team Leadership and Motivation:** Managers with high EQ can inspire, coach, and support individuals, recognising different personalities and motivations. This improves morale, retention, and performance in procurement teams.

**Ethical and Responsible Behaviour:** High EQ includes empathy and awareness of wider impacts. Procurement leaders with EQ are more likely to consider ethical sourcing, sustainability, and supplier welfare, aligning decisions with organisational values.

**Change Management:** Procurement functions often undergo transformation (e.g., digital tools, supplier consolidation). Leaders with high EQ can communicate sensitively, understand employee concerns, and build buy-in for change.

Conclusion:

Emotional intelligence is the ability to manage emotions and relationships effectively. In procurement, high EQ strengthens negotiations, builds trust with stakeholders, resolves conflicts, motivates teams, and supports ethical and sustainable practices. It is therefore a critical capability for procurement leaders aiming to achieve both operational excellence and strategic value.

**NEW QUESTION # 19**

Sayed manages a team of 3 procurement assistants within a window fabrication company - Glassy Bits Ltd. The company has been operating for 30 years and the procurement team is still paper-based. The three members of staff have been with the company for at least 10 years and are very comfortable with the way things operate. To procure items such as PVC plastic and glass to make the windows they usually phone suppliers and send paper POs which Sayed approves with a physical signature. Sayed believes efficiencies can be gained from 'going digital' and introducing e-procurement systems. He is worried at how the team may react to such a big change. Discuss the emotional stages that the team may go through when experiencing this change, and how Sayed should act in order to help navigate the team through the change. (25 points).

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

When major change is introduced, employees often experience strong emotions. The Change Curve, based on Elisabeth Kubler-Ross's grief model, describes the stages staff may go through when faced with organisational change.

The first stage is Shock/Denial. The procurement assistants may initially resist the idea of e-procurement, insisting that the paper-based system "has always worked." Sayed should communicate openly about why the change is needed and provide clear facts about its benefits.

The second stage is Anger/Resistance. Staff may feel threatened, fearing loss of control or concern that they will not have the skills to manage digital systems. They may complain or openly resist. At this point, Sayed should listen empathetically, address concerns, and provide reassurance that training and support will be available.

The third stage is Exploration/Acceptance. Gradually, staff begin to see potential benefits, such as less paperwork and faster processes. Curiosity grows, and employees start experimenting with the new system. Here, Sayed should encourage participation, offer pilot training, and allow staff to test the system in a safe environment.

The fourth stage is Commitment/Integration. Once staff feel competent and confident, they fully adopt the change. At this stage, Sayed should reinforce the success, recognise achievements, and celebrate improvements, such as reduced errors or faster ordering.

How Sayed Should Act:

Communicate clearly - explain why digitalisation is important (efficiency, accuracy, competitiveness).

Provide training and support - ensure assistants feel capable of using the new e-procurement tools.  
Involve the team - allow staff to give feedback on system design or pilot trials to increase buy-in.  
Be empathetic and patient - acknowledge fears and provide reassurance during resistance.  
Reinforce success - highlight early wins and show how the change benefits both the team and the organisation.  
Conclusion:

The team is likely to experience stages of shock, anger, exploration, and eventual commitment as they move through the change curve. Sayed must act as a supportive leader by communicating openly, offering training, involving staff, and recognising progress. This approach will help the team transition smoothly to e-procurement and ensure the change is successful.

### NEW QUESTION # 20

Describe 4 reasons why groups may form within an organisation. (25 points).

#### Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Groups are an essential feature of organisational life. A group can be defined as two or more individuals who interact and work together to achieve a purpose. Groups may be formally created by management or may form informally through social interaction. There are several reasons why groups form in organisations.

The first reason is task and goal achievement. Formal groups are created to achieve organisational objectives that require collaboration. For example, in procurement, a cross-functional sourcing group may be formed to run a tender process involving operations, finance, and procurement staff. Individuals form these groups because working together helps them achieve outcomes that they could not accomplish alone.

The second reason is social and psychological needs. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, people seek belonging and relationships. Informal groups often form to meet these needs, providing friendship, support, and a sense of identity. In Star Fish Ltd, for instance, employees working remotely may form a social group using Teams or WhatsApp to stay connected and reduce feelings of isolation.

The third reason is safety and security. Groups can give members confidence and protection when facing uncertainty or change. For example, during organisational restructuring, employees may form informal groups to share information and support each other, making them feel less vulnerable. In procurement, staff may collaborate in groups to manage supplier risks or market volatility.

The fourth reason is power and influence. Groups provide individuals with a stronger collective voice. Trade unions are a formal example, but informal groups can also lobby management or resist unpopular changes. In procurement, buyers might form a group to influence senior managers on issues such as introducing sustainable sourcing practices. By forming groups, individuals can increase their bargaining power and impact decisions.

In conclusion, groups form for task achievement, to satisfy social needs, to provide security, and to increase power and influence. Managers must understand these dynamics because groups can both support organisational objectives and create challenges if informal groups resist change. Effective leaders harness the benefits of group formation while addressing the risks to ensure both cohesion and productivity.

### NEW QUESTION # 21

Describe what is meant by knowledge transfer (10 points). How can a manager ensure strong knowledge management within the organisation? (15 points).

#### Answer:

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Part A - Knowledge Transfer (10 points):

Knowledge transfer refers to the process of sharing skills, experience, insights and information from one person or group to another within an organisation. It ensures that valuable expertise is not lost and that best practice can be replicated. This can happen formally, such as through training, mentoring, or documented procedures, or informally, through conversations, collaboration, and shared experiences. In procurement, knowledge transfer might involve senior buyers passing negotiation tactics to junior colleagues or documenting supplier performance insights in a shared database.

Part B - Ensuring Strong Knowledge Management (15 points):

Managers play a key role in creating systems and cultures that support knowledge sharing. Some ways include:

Creating knowledge repositories - using databases, intranets, or category management playbooks where information is stored and

accessible to all team members.

Encouraging mentoring and coaching - pairing experienced staff with new employees helps transfer tacit knowledge that may not be written down.

Promoting collaboration and teamwork - cross-functional project teams and regular knowledge-sharing meetings spread expertise across functions.

Using technology - collaboration platforms (e.g., SharePoint, Teams) allow procurement staff to record supplier insights, lessons learned, and contract data in real time.

Rewarding knowledge sharing - recognising and incentivising individuals who share expertise encourages a culture of openness rather than knowledge hoarding.

Embedding learning in processes - after-action reviews, lessons-learned sessions after supplier negotiations or tenders ensure experiences are captured systematically.

Leadership behaviours - managers must role-model transparency and collaboration, showing staff that sharing knowledge is valued.

Conclusion:

Knowledge transfer is about ensuring that critical experience and expertise are shared across the organisation. Managers can ensure strong knowledge management by combining systems, processes, and culture - from IT tools and databases to mentoring and recognition. In procurement, effective knowledge management helps avoid repeated mistakes, builds stronger supplier relationships, and improves decision-making across the team.

## NEW QUESTION # 22

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