

# Latest L5M1 Test Objectives & L5M1 Exam Outline



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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 STEELED 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>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 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>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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## >> Latest L5M1 Test Objectives <<

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### CIPS Managing Teams and Individuals Sample Questions (Q29-Q34):

#### NEW QUESTION # 29

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-Kilmann 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 # 30

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 # 31**

Compare and contrast how procurement would collaborate with any TWO of the following stakeholders: suppliers, customers, other departments within the organisation, local community. (25 points).

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

Procurement plays a central role in engaging with different stakeholders. Effective collaboration ensures efficiency, compliance, and value creation. The way procurement collaborates can vary depending on the stakeholder group. Two examples are suppliers and other departments within the organisation.

Collaboration with Suppliers:

Procurement must develop strong relationships with suppliers to ensure continuity of supply, cost efficiency, and quality. This involves activities such as contract negotiation, performance monitoring, and supplier relationship management (SRM). Collaboration often focuses on building trust, sharing forecasts, and working on joint initiatives like innovation or sustainability. For example, in a manufacturing firm, procurement may collaborate with a fabric supplier to develop new eco-friendly materials. The relationship can be transactional for routine items or strategic for high-value, critical suppliers.

Collaboration with Other Departments:

Internally, procurement must work closely with functions such as Finance, Operations, and Marketing. Collaboration ensures that procurement strategies align with organisational needs. For example, Finance may require procurement to manage budgets and compliance, while Operations depends on procurement for timely materials. Collaboration may involve cross-functional teams, joint

decision-making, and regular communication. For instance, procurement and product development may work together to source innovative materials that match design requirements.

Comparison:

Both collaborations require trust, open communication, and alignment of goals.

With suppliers, collaboration often focuses externally on securing value and innovation. With internal departments, it focuses on aligning procurement activity with business objectives.

Supplier collaboration may involve formal tools like contracts, KPIs, and SRM frameworks, whereas internal collaboration relies more on teamwork, communication, and shared processes.

Contrast:

Suppliers are external stakeholders, so procurement must manage risks, legal compliance, and negotiation dynamics. Internal departments are internal stakeholders, requiring influence, persuasion, and partnership.

Supplier collaboration aims at building long-term external relationships; internal collaboration ensures smooth workflows and organisational efficiency.

Conclusion:

Procurement collaborates with both suppliers and internal departments, but the focus differs. Supplier collaboration is about external value creation and innovation, while internal collaboration is about aligning processes and achieving organisational goals. Successful procurement professionals adapt their approach to meet the needs of each group while ensuring overall business success.

### NEW QUESTION # 32

Explain what a 'bureaucratic' management style is (10 points). What are the advantages and disadvantages of this? (10 points)

**Answer:**

Explanation:

See the Explanation for Detailed Answer

Explanation:

A bureaucratic management style is based on the theories of Max Weber, who described bureaucracy as a structured, rule-based and hierarchical way of organising work. In this style, managers rely heavily on formal rules, policies and procedures to direct employee behaviour. Decision-making authority follows a clear chain of command, and employees are expected to follow established processes without deviation. Job roles are highly specialised and responsibilities are clearly defined. The emphasis is on order, consistency and compliance rather than flexibility or creativity.

This approach is often seen in government departments, regulatory bodies, or large organisations where compliance, accountability and control are critical. For example, in procurement and supply, bureaucratic management may be applied in highly regulated environments such as public sector purchasing, where adherence to policies, legal frameworks and audit requirements is essential.

Advantages of the bureaucratic style include:

Clarity and consistency: clear rules and procedures mean employees know exactly what is expected of them.

Fairness and equality: decisions are made based on rules, not personal favouritism, reducing bias.

Accountability and control: strong documentation and audit trails improve transparency.

Efficiency in routine tasks: structured processes can streamline repetitive, transactional work (e.g., purchase-to-pay).

Disadvantages include:

Inflexibility: rigid rules make it difficult to adapt to change or unique situations.

Low motivation: workers may feel disempowered or demoralised by lack of autonomy.

Slow decision-making: multiple levels of approval can create delays.

Stifled innovation: focus on compliance discourages creativity and proactive problem-solving.

In conclusion, the bureaucratic management style is effective where consistency, compliance and control are needed, such as in regulated procurement activities. However, it can be limiting in dynamic environments where flexibility, innovation and speed of decision-making are essential. Successful managers may therefore adopt bureaucratic methods for governance but balance them with more adaptive styles for strategic and innovative work.

### NEW QUESTION # 33

(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,

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.

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