

PMI Germany Chapter – PMP Study Group

How to reach an 80 to 90% passing rate?

Date:

June 16, 2026



Agenda

- Introduction
- Set expectations
- Learning: **How to reach an 80 to 90% passing rate?**
 - Why do we never feel ready?
 - Understanding the Exact PMI Mindset
- Drag & Drop exercise
- Challenging Questions
- Next Steps/Q&A

Set expectation
What are you going to learn?

PMP = Big Goal

You = Tired, exhausted and overwhelmed

- Exam is changing by July 9th
- PMBOK8 is only part of the new exam
- All questions are situational
- We don't know the passing rate
- Only 1 out of 3 people pass daily

My Secret Sauce:

PMP Made Easy – 8 Weeks Exam Prep

**97% OF THE PEOPLE PREPARE
FOR PMP THE SAME WAY**

EXAM PREP TAKES 147 DAYS

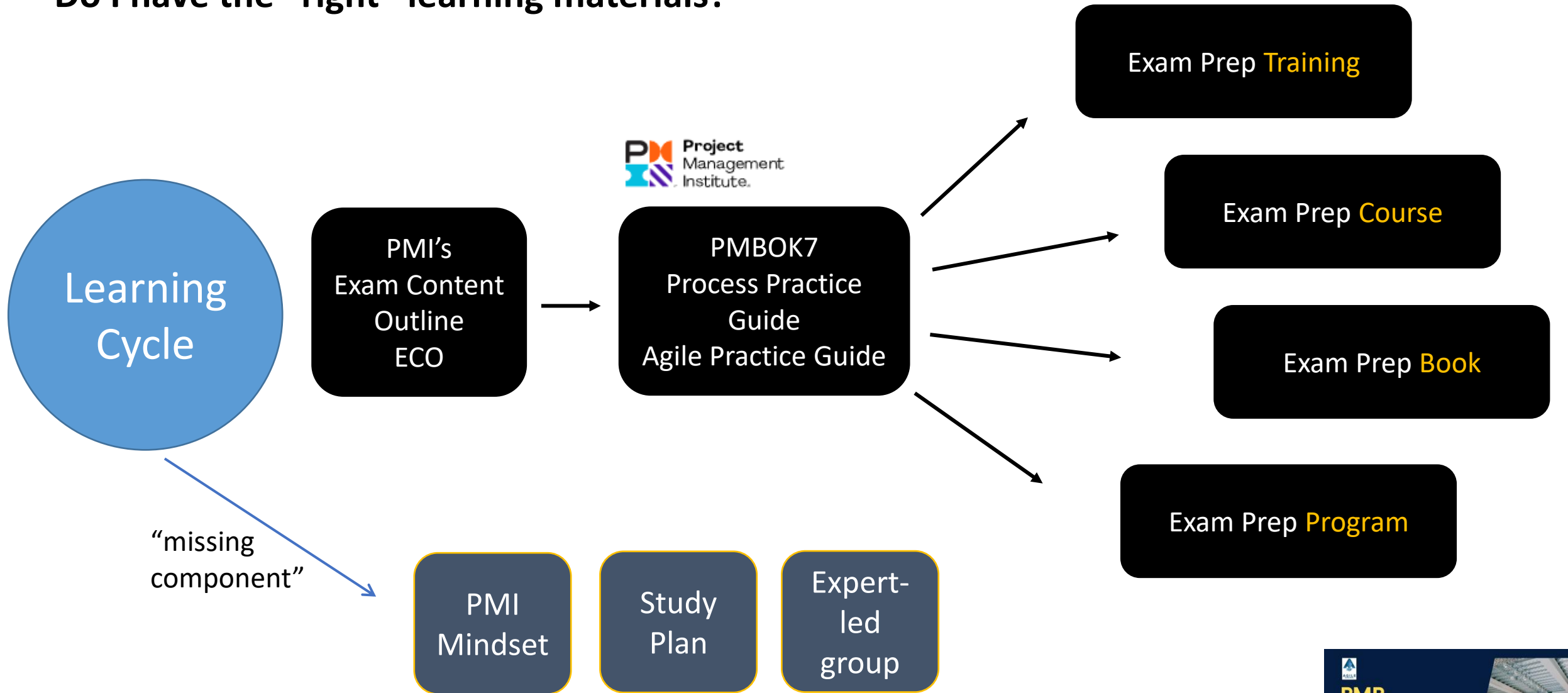
**PMP PREP IS NOT A WEIGHT
LOSS PROGRAM**

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Why do we never feel ready? Do I have the right materials?



Do I have the “right” learning materials?

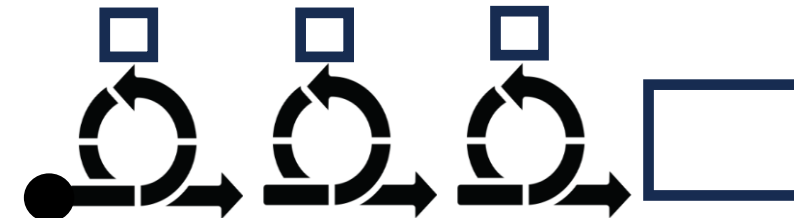
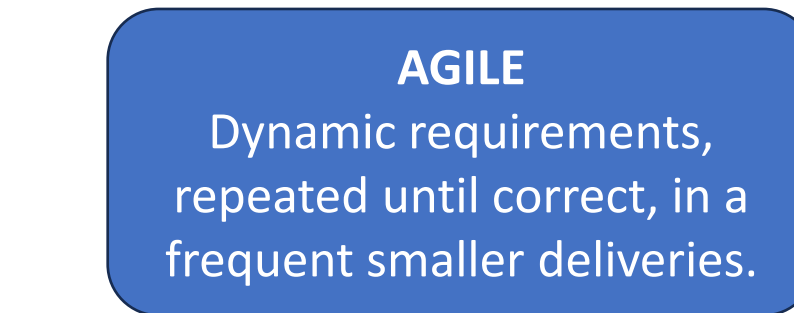
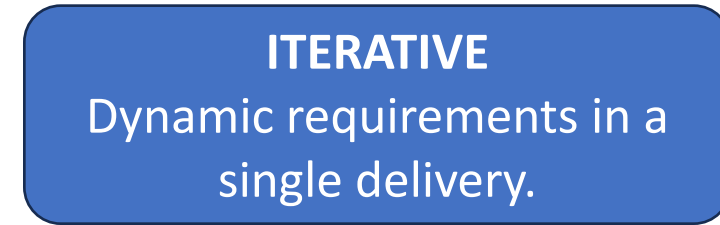
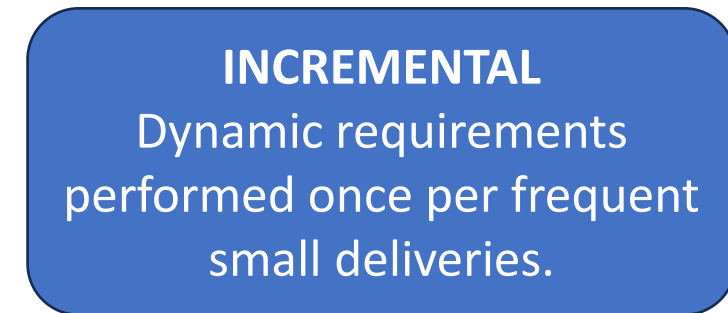
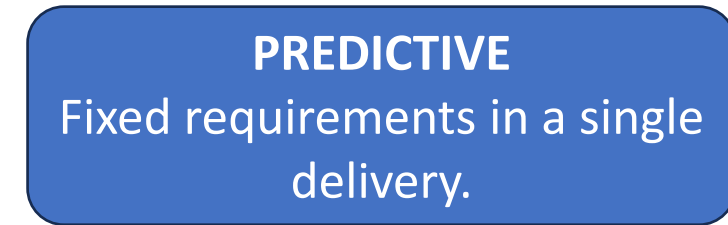


Secret 1

Understanding the Exact PMI Mindset



Project Management Methodologies



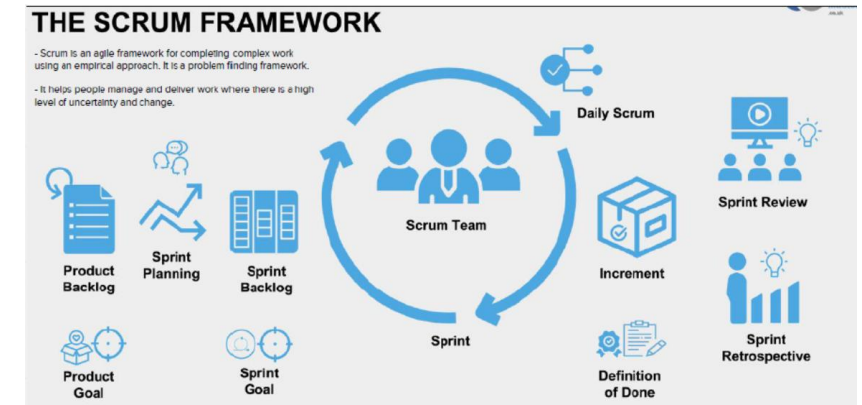
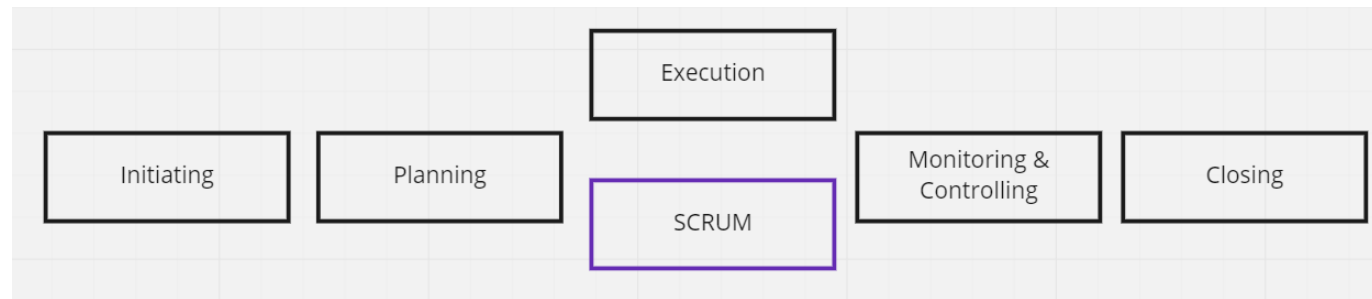
Mindset vs Know-how

Methodology	Mindset – Logic – The way we think	Delivery – Know-how – Actual doing projects
Agile	4 values/12 principles	Scrum
Waterfall/ Predictive	PMBOK7	Process Practice Guide/"PMBOK6"
Hybrid	Agile + Waterfall	NONE -> why? There is NO Hybrid project management best practices guide

What is hybrid project management?

Hybrid method

- Equally flexible and rigid at the same time
- Try to create a balance
- Maximize team efficiency



Hybrid

The photo transfer project will be starting in a few weeks, and it is up to you to decide which project methodology the team will use. You have some concerns about the project because the customer will not always be available, and the team has mixed experience in agile methods. Also, even though the sponsor is quite supportive in allowing you to choose whichever approach is best, he has given you a warning. He suggests that you be prepared since this particular customer is known to be demanding and changes their mind frequently based on the latest market intelligence they've heard. After reviewing the situation, which method would be most appropriate?

- A) Scrum
- B) Predictive
- C) Hybrid
- D) Waterfall

Agile

Waterfall

**Question
3**

Question

Waterfall

Agile/ Hybrid

Question

**Next step? or
Elimination**

Correct answer is C. A hybrid approach is the best option. In a hybrid lifecycle, those well-known and fixed elements can follow a predictive life cycle, and those that are still evolving can be done with an adaptive approach.

BOOK A CALL 30 MIN



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FREE CAPM or PMP Exam Strategy Call



Reaching 80-90% passing rate

Reaching 80-90% passing rate

- Step 1: Question patterns
- Step 2: Question categorization by PMI
- Step 3: How to answer questions?

Step 1: Question patterns

Question Patterns

Pattern 1

Best Practice Question

- Question description is general
- Referring to a definition or a process
- Look for keywords: characteristic; which is not.....?; what should you do first....?; what should you do next....?

Pattern 2

Specific Question, Solving Specific Problem

- Description defines a unique situation with a specific problem
- Amongst the answers look for a “real” next step, “real” action
- Look for keywords: there is 2 weeks delay; we decided to optimize resources

Step 2: Question categorization by PMI

Question categorization

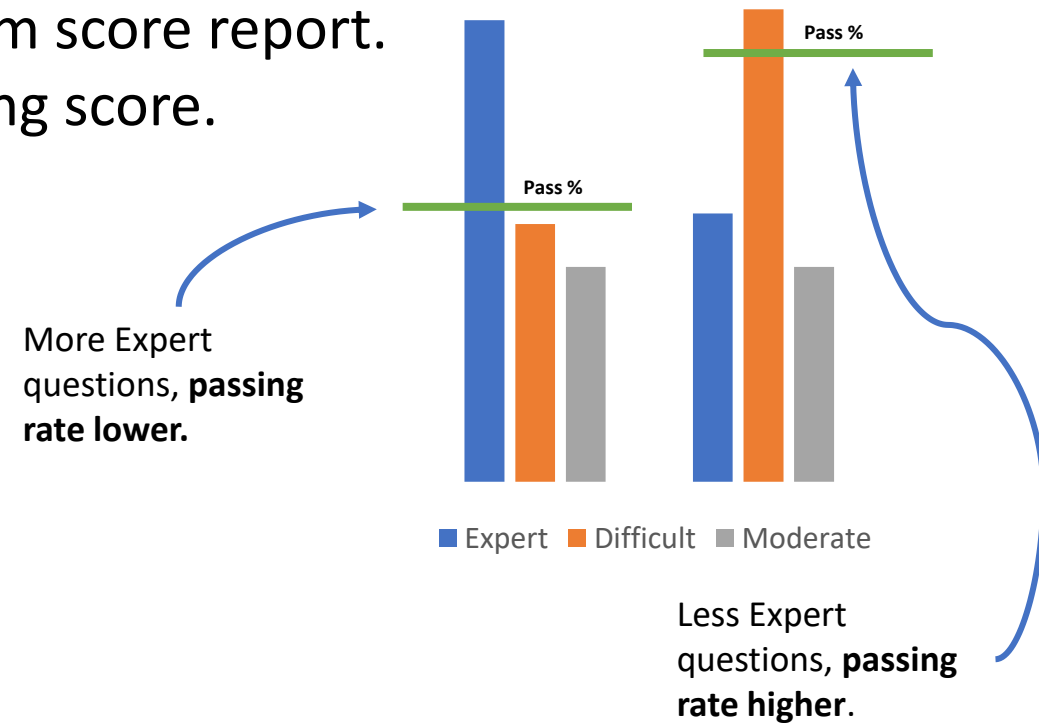
REMINDER!

- All questions are situational for the PMP exam.
- The result of the PMP exam is given on a PMP exam score report.
- Each individual candidate will have a unique passing score.

PMI categorize* questions as per the following:

- Moderate
- Difficult
- Expert

*assumption based on PMI Study Hall software



Step 3: How to answer questions?

How to read questions?

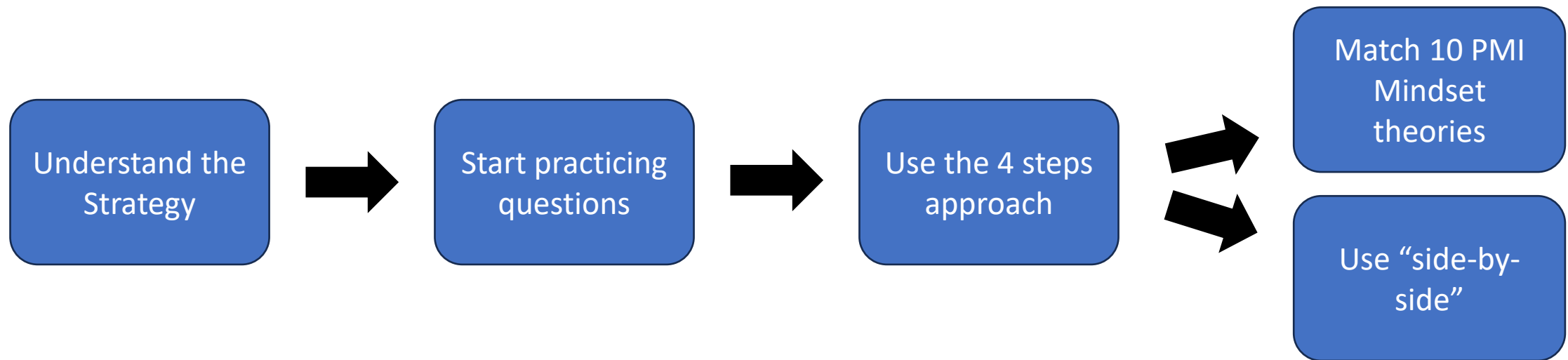
Reading questions:

- Everybody do this differently
 - Reading just the question and then answers
 - Reading the whole question
 - Reading it 3 x times
- You can read the questions as many times you like, 5-6-7 x time if need it, please ensure you are aware of your timing
- The way you read questions is up to you, there is no “bad” answer 😊



How to answer questions?

1. You know the answer by heart.
2. We find a way to figure it out.



Strategy

Tackling situational questions

- ✓ Read carefully: read the entire question slowly and deliberately
- ✓ Identify the core issue: focus on the main problem or challenge
- ✓ Determine the project phase: recognize the project lifecycle phase
- ✓ Recall PM processes: align with the related PM processes
- ✓ Eliminate extreme options: avoid drastic measure
- ✓ Avoid generalization: beware of words like “always”, “never”,....
- ✓ Look for the next logical step: focus on the immediate next steps
- ✓ Beware of distractions in options: align with the core issue
- ✓ Trust PMBOK principles: rely on the PMBOK guide’s principles



4 Steps Approach

When you answer questions, always follow the following steps:

1. Analyze, is this Agile or Waterfall or Hybrid question?
2. Search for keywords.
3. Eliminate answers which are not inline with 10 mindset theories.
4. Select the answer which solves the problem or situation.



PMI Mindset Theories

1. We always analyze/investigate/discuss before making any decision.
2. Always approach every question with servant leadership in mind.
3. All solutions should focus on Value creation.
4. As Project Manager you are making decisions, including handling issues(you only *run* to Sponsor/Management if your stakeholder relationship is completely broken).
5. Identifying and managing stakeholders happens from beginning till end of project.
6. In waterfall, your plan is the "bible", you always look into the plan before making decisions.
7. PM is not the smartest person, always involve your team and seek advice from SMEs.
8. Waterfall to Agile transition happens always at a slow pace.
9. Agile keywords: empowerment, servant leadership, colocation, change driven, flexibility, prioritization, continues delivery
10. Waterfall keywords: plan driven, baselines, change request, business case, WBS, ROI, 18 plans, PMO

Use “side-by-side”

BEST Practice Question

There is NO
WAR Room in
Agile

10 PMI Mindset Theories

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You are leading an Agile project for a new IT initiative in the company that will get a lot of visibility. You have been disappointed that the quality of the product delivered for the last several sprints has been poor. What is the best option that the team should take?

- A) Ensure transparency of the work progress by displaying the KanBan board in the team war room.
- B) Hold retrospectives more frequently
- C) Ensure the team is using test-driven development
- D) Remind the team about the importance of an agile mindset.

Correct answer is C. Test-driven development is a quality practice that drives defects down. Since this is a quality issue, this would be the best option. Transparency, more frequent retrospectives, and the agile mindset are important agile practices and attributes, but they will not help the quality issue.

Question
Waterfall
Agile/ Hybrid
Question
Next step? or
Elimination

Question
1

Agile mindset
does not solve
quality problems

One sprint, one
retrospective,
this is the rule

hing or distribution

Use “side-by-side”

BEST Practice Question

It is used for Waterfall

10 PMI Mindset Theories

What is a technique used by project teams to bring everyone together on a set reoccurring basis to share what may be blocking or impeding on their work or plans?

- A. Daily stand-up meeting
- B. Iteration review
- C. Retrospective
- D. Project kick-off

Correct answer is A.

Question
Waterfall
Agile/ Hybrid
Question
Next step? or
Elimination

Question
2

Retrospective is
not used for
discussing blockers

Is not reoccurring,
it happens only
once

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thing or distribution

Use “side-by-side”

Specific Question

No action without
any analysis

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According to the project plan, a contractor is scheduled to deliver some software components today afternoon. A regular monthly payment is due to be made to this contractor tomorrow. You and your project team received a note this morning informing you that the software delivery will be delayed by 2 weeks. What should you do right now?

- A) You should delay the payment also for 2 weeks.
- B) You must immediately find and change to a different contractor.
- C) You should consult with the contractor to understand and possibly resolve the delivery issues. This may influence further payments.
- D) You should make the payment and reschedule the project incorporating the delay.

Correct answer is C.

Question
Waterfall
or Agile?
Question
Next step? or
Elimination

Question
3

What is your next
step?

Reason for C being the best
answer is because, PM has
to be sure every decision is
“data-driven”. No, “I think
so”, No, “I feel like”.

Use “side-by-side”

Specific Question

There is no product backlog on Waterfall project

We always must analyse first before proposing budget increase(via CRQ)

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A project manager has started a new project with a 36 months timeline. Soon after kickoff, the sponsor informs the project manager that the timeline needs to be shortened to 6 months.

What should the project manager do in this situation?

- A. Focus on developing a minimum viable product(MVP) by referencing the product backlog for items with the highest prioritization that can be completed in the new timeline.
- B. Refer to the product backlog to identify the items that can be completed in the shortest amount of time and add them to the project to complete in the new timeline.
- C. Work with the sponsor to increase the budget to hire vendors to develop the deliverables in the compressed timeline.
- D. Implement fast tracking and record this timeline change in the risk register.

Correct Answer is A.

Question

Waterfall

Agile/ Hybrid

Question

Next step? or

Elimination

Question
4

We are just after kickoff meeting, meaning, all baselines approved, and execution starts

Request of shortening timeline already should have been part of Risk Register. Will not solve situation,

Reason for A being the best answer is because, we know why all other answers are incorrect! And since baselines are approved, we need a solution to shorten timeline.

ing or distribution

Drag & Drop

Match the Project Management method with the term.

Predictive

Predictive

Predictive

Agile

Agile

Agile

Predictive

Predictive

Agile

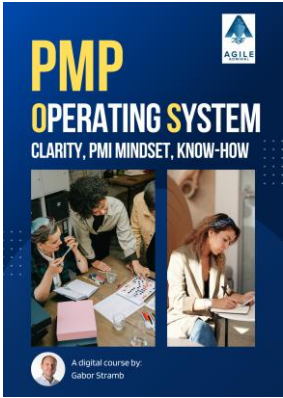
Agile

Predictive

Predictive

Predictive

Agile



	Quality audit	Flexibility	
	Daily stand-up meeting	Project charter	
	Strong matrix	Product Owner	
	Empowerment	Product Manager	
	Make or Buy analysis	Accepted deliverable	
	EMV = P x I	Rolling wave planning	
	Team of 11 ppl	Continues delivery	

There is NEW WAY OF PASSING PMP

~~MORE LEARNING MATERIAL~~

- **Step-by-Step System**
- **Understanding the Mindset**
- **Doing the “right” questions**

From being STUCK to Passing PMP

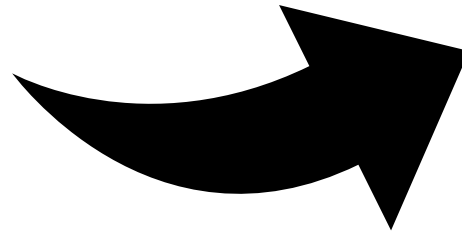


Did Bootcamp
Not feeling ready
Study for 3-4 months
Don't know what is missing



I struggled and wasted time and money before...

I struggled and wasted time and money trying to organize my ideas to achieve the PMP certificate. I also invested in boot camp, but I was on my own and did not receive any support at all. In meeting Gabor, I realized what a real coach is, someone who understands you, communicates with you, is interested in your goals, and will inspire you, and that helped me to achieve my goal of obtaining my PMP certification



Gabor Stramb - Projectcertifications

Reviews 420 • Excellent



Expert level questions

Practice what we learned

Question Patterns

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You have used estimates made by your team members and applied the critical path method to compute a network logic diagram for your project. Then you found out that it cannot be sufficiently optimized for scarce resources and fast progress towards a given deadline. What should you do next?

- A) Apply resource leveling and smoothing heuristics to uncritical activities only.
- B) Reduce estimates on duration and work efforts by an adequate percentage.
- C) Search for opportunities to compress the schedule without jeopardizing the project.
- D) Remove physical and legal constraints and replace hard logic with soft logic.

Question
1

Correct answer is C.

Constructive changes are a common source for conflicts between customers and contractors in projects under contract. What is a constructive change?

- A) A change request that helps improving the project and its product, service, or result and could be generally discussed in a friendly style.
- B) A direction by the buyer or an action taken by the seller that either party may post ad-hoc consider an undocumented change.
- C) A field change or ad-hoc change mandated by the project customer in a public construction project.
- D) A change request which will lead to the re-construction of an older version of the project performance baseline by the contractor

Question 2

Correct answer is B.

Which of the following is the best example of a blocker?

- A. The team cannot decide when to schedule the next iteration review.
- B. The demonstration is not ready for the iteration review.
- C. The clearance from another team to use content for the demo won't be ready within the current iteration.
- D. The demonstration fails in front of the product owner during the iteration review.

Question
3

Correct answer is C.

BOOK A CALL 30 MIN



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FREE CAPM or PMP Exam Strategy Call



Q&A

Time for questions