

ACQ 1010 Fundamentals of Systems Acquisition Management Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. What is a common consequence of delays in acquisition programs due to Cost Overruns?**
 - A. Increased team morale**
 - B. Enhanced supplier negotiations**
 - C. Impact on the overall success of the program**
 - D. Faster project completion**
- 2. Which of the following is a responsibility of the Program Manager in Systems Acquisition?**
 - A. Making all decisions independently**
 - B. Overseeing the implementation of the Acquisition Strategy**
 - C. Conducting financial audits of the program**
 - D. Only reporting issues to higher management**
- 3. Performance Based Logistics (PBL) is based on which type of thinking?**
 - A. Cost-driven thinking**
 - B. Warrior-driven thinking**
 - C. Warfighter-driven thinking**
 - D. Operational-driven thinking**
- 4. What does CTA stand for?**
 - A. Capstone Threat Assessment**
 - B. Critical Threat Analysis**
 - C. Comprehensive Tactical Assessment**
 - D. Counter Threat Assessment**
- 5. Which of the following is NOT a function of the JCIDS?**
 - A. Define capabilities**
 - B. Validate requirements**
 - C. Manage financial resources**
 - D. Support military strategy development**

- 6. What is the primary objective of the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS)?**
- A. Ensuring budget compliance**
 - B. Improving system operation efficiency**
 - C. Identifying capabilities required by the warfighter**
 - D. Enhancing training programs for personnel**
- 7. How can an understanding of geopolitical risks benefit an organization?**
- A. By reducing supply chain costs**
 - B. By fostering innovation**
 - C. By improving risk management strategies**
 - D. By increasing market share**
- 8. What is one of the main consequences of variability in regulatory compliance across countries?**
- A. Streamlined operations**
 - B. Increased efficiency in production**
 - C. Inconsistent product quality**
 - D. Uniform market entry strategies**
- 9. Why is the analysis of alternatives (AoA) important in the acquisition process?**
- A. It identifies potential contractors for service**
 - B. It helps determine the best solution for meeting user needs**
 - C. It outlines the budget constraints for a program**
 - D. It sets the timeline for project completion**
- 10. What is one of the main objectives of Operations and Support in the Systems Acquisition Lifecycle?**
- A. To ensure a seamless transition between project phases**
 - B. To focus solely on product development**
 - C. To manage the ongoing effectiveness and support of the system**
 - D. To reduce overall costs regardless of performance**

Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. C
7. C
8. C
9. B
10. C

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Explanations

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1. What is a common consequence of delays in acquisition programs due to Cost Overruns?

- A. Increased team morale**
- B. Enhanced supplier negotiations**
- C. Impact on the overall success of the program**
- D. Faster project completion**

Delays in acquisition programs, particularly those caused by cost overruns, often lead to significant impacts on the overall success of the program. When a program faces delays, it can disrupt timelines, reduce efficiency, and jeopardize the initial objectives set out in the acquisition strategy. This can result in missed deadlines, reduced stakeholder satisfaction, and ultimately, may lead to additional costs or resource allocation issues. Cost overruns indicate that a project is consuming more resources than planned, which not only extends the timeframe for delivery but can also affect the quality and performance of the final product. As deadlines stretch, teams might rush to make up for lost time, potentially compromising quality or innovation in their solutions. In severe cases, prolonged delays can result in projects being canceled or significantly revised, hence adversely affecting their success. The other options reflect consequences that do not typically arise in the context of delays due to cost overruns. Increased team morale is unlikely as delays and cost issues often lead to frustration and low morale. Enhancing supplier negotiations usually requires a favorable context where both parties are reaching common objectives, which is often damaged during delays. Faster project completion is counterintuitive; delays inherently suggest that projects are taking longer than scheduled, leading to the opposite effect.

2. Which of the following is a responsibility of the Program Manager in Systems Acquisition?

- A. Making all decisions independently**
- B. Overseeing the implementation of the Acquisition Strategy**
- C. Conducting financial audits of the program**
- D. Only reporting issues to higher management**

The responsibility of overseeing the implementation of the Acquisition Strategy is a core function of the Program Manager in Systems Acquisition. The Program Manager plays a critical role in ensuring that the acquisition process adheres to the established strategy, which includes defining the program's objectives, determining resource requirements, managing risks, and ensuring compliance with relevant policies and regulations. This oversight is essential to align various project activities with the overall goals of the acquisition process. By effectively implementing the Acquisition Strategy, the Program Manager helps ensure that the program remains on track to achieve its intended outcomes. This involves engaging with stakeholders, coordinating with different teams, and continuously monitoring progress to make necessary adjustments when challenges arise. In contrast, other options present responsibilities that either overstate or misrepresent the role of a Program Manager. For example, making all decisions independently does not reflect the collaborative nature of the position. Conducting financial audits is typically not within the scope of a Program Manager's responsibilities, as these are usually handled by financial specialists or auditors. Reporting issues to higher management is part of the role but should not be limited to merely reporting; the Program Manager should actively engage in problem-solving and communication with stakeholders.

3. Performance Based Logistics (PBL) is based on which type of thinking?

- A. Cost-driven thinking**
- B. Warrior-driven thinking**
- C. Warfighter-driven thinking**
- D. Operational-driven thinking**

Performance Based Logistics (PBL) centers around a Warfighter-driven thinking approach, which emphasizes meeting the needs and requirements of the end-users—typically military personnel who operate the systems. This approach prioritizes performance outcomes over traditional logistics measures, focusing on delivering the right support at the right time to enhance operational capabilities. Warfighter-driven thinking involves understanding the operational contexts in which military assets are used, as well as the challenges faced by the warfighters. This means designing logistics and sustainment strategies that are directly aligned with the mission objectives and operational readiness of the forces. The PBL framework supports this by providing incentives for contractors to deliver complete support solutions that ensure system availability and reliability, thus directly benefiting the warfighters in the field. This focus on end-user performance distinguishes PBL from other approaches that may concentrate more on cost control or general operational efficiency without a specific emphasis on warfighter needs. By aligning logistics strategies with the goals and requirements of military operations, PBL ensures that warfighters have the essential tools and support to perform their missions effectively. Understanding this principle is vital for anyone involved in systems acquisition, as it shapes how successful logistical strategies and partnerships are developed to support military objectives.

4. What does CTA stand for?

- A. Capstone Threat Assessment**
- B. Critical Threat Analysis**
- C. Comprehensive Tactical Assessment**
- D. Counter Threat Assessment**

The abbreviation CTA stands for Capstone Threat Assessment. This term is commonly used in the context of risk management and systems acquisition to refer to a comprehensive evaluation designed to identify and assess potential threats to a project or system. The capstone aspect emphasizes the exhaustive and final nature of this assessment, serving as a crucial component in decision-making processes regarding systems acquisition. In a Capstone Threat Assessment, various factors are analyzed to provide a holistic view of potential vulnerabilities and risks that might impact the project's success. This thorough approach aids organizations in developing strategies to mitigate identified threats effectively, ensuring stronger project outcomes and improved security over the lifecycle of the acquisition process. Understanding this concept is vital for professionals involved in systems acquisition and risk management, as it informs their strategic planning and operational protocols.

5. Which of the following is NOT a function of the JCIDS?

- A. Define capabilities**
- B. Validate requirements**
- C. Manage financial resources**
- D. Support military strategy development**

The Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS) is primarily focused on identifying, defining, and prioritizing military capabilities to inform the acquisition process. It emphasizes establishing the required capabilities to meet operational needs, validating those requirements, and ensuring they align with the overall military strategy. Managing financial resources is not a function of JCIDS. Instead, financial management is typically handled by other departments or systems within the Department of Defense, such as the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) process, which allocates resources based on priorities set by JCIDS. By not directly involving itself in financial management, JCIDS can maintain a clear focus on defining and validating capabilities without the distractions that budgeting concerns might introduce. In contrast, the other functions listed—defining capabilities, validating requirements, and supporting military strategy development—are core to the JCIDS process, ensuring that military operations are effectively supported by the necessary resources and strategic alignment.

6. What is the primary objective of the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS)?

- A. Ensuring budget compliance**
- B. Improving system operation efficiency**
- C. Identifying capabilities required by the warfighter**
- D. Enhancing training programs for personnel**

The primary objective of the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS) is to identify capabilities required by the warfighter. This framework is designed to ensure that the development of new systems and capabilities aligns with the needs of military operations and mission effectiveness. By focusing on identifying these requirements, JCIDS facilitates the examination and prioritization of military needs, ensuring that resources are dedicated to capabilities that will provide the greatest benefit to warfighters in the field. This capability-centric approach helps in assessing what is truly necessary for operational success, fostering the development of systems that directly address gaps and enhance overall military readiness. The emphasis on capabilities ensures that the efforts of acquisition and development are effectively aligned with strategic priorities, ultimately translating into better support for the warfighter's operational needs.

7. How can an understanding of geopolitical risks benefit an organization?

- A. By reducing supply chain costs**
- B. By fostering innovation**
- C. By improving risk management strategies**
- D. By increasing market share**

Understanding geopolitical risks immensely benefits an organization by enhancing its risk management strategies. This comprehension allows a company to identify and assess potential threats arising from political instability, economic shifts, or regulatory changes in different regions. By integrating this understanding into its operational framework, the organization can develop proactive measures to mitigate risks associated with international dealings. For example, if an organization is aware of political tensions in a region where it sources materials, it can diversify its supply chain or establish contingency plans to avoid disruptions. Furthermore, awareness of geopolitical shifts can inform an organization's decisions regarding market entry, partnerships, and investments, enabling it to navigate challenges and seize opportunities effectively. This strategic approach leads to a more resilient organization that can better withstand external pressures, ultimately leading to improved operational effectiveness and safeguarding the organization's assets and interests.

8. What is one of the main consequences of variability in regulatory compliance across countries?

- A. Streamlined operations**
- B. Increased efficiency in production**
- C. Inconsistent product quality**
- D. Uniform market entry strategies**

Variability in regulatory compliance across countries often leads to inconsistent product quality. When businesses operate in multiple countries, they must navigate different regulations, standards, and compliance requirements. These variances may result in products being developed or modified to meet differing demands, which can lead to discrepancies in quality. For instance, if one country's regulations are more stringent than another's, the company might produce a product that meets the higher standard for that market while a different version, perhaps of lower quality, may be made for a country with less rigorous regulations. This inconsistency can impact consumer trust and brand reputation if customers experience differing levels of quality based on geography. Hence, the consequence of variability in regulatory compliance directly affects how uniform the product's quality can be across different regions.

9. Why is the analysis of alternatives (AoA) important in the acquisition process?

- A. It identifies potential contractors for service**
- B. It helps determine the best solution for meeting user needs**
- C. It outlines the budget constraints for a program**
- D. It sets the timeline for project completion**

The analysis of alternatives (AoA) is a crucial step in the acquisition process as it systematically evaluates various potential solutions to meet user requirements. By conducting an AoA, decision-makers can compare different approaches, technologies, and methodologies to determine which option best satisfies the mission needs while considering factors such as performance, cost, risk, and schedule. This structured evaluation ensures that the chosen solution aligns with both organizational goals and stakeholder expectations, ultimately leading to more effective and efficient outcomes. This process not only helps in identifying the most suitable alternative but also supports the justification of the selected approach to stakeholders, enhancing transparency and accountability in decision-making. The AoA provides a foundational analysis that informs subsequent phases of the acquisition lifecycle, ensuring that investments are made wisely and effectively address the defined user needs.

10. What is one of the main objectives of Operations and Support in the Systems Acquisition Lifecycle?

- A. To ensure a seamless transition between project phases**
- B. To focus solely on product development**
- C. To manage the ongoing effectiveness and support of the system**
- D. To reduce overall costs regardless of performance**

One of the main objectives of Operations and Support in the Systems Acquisition Lifecycle is to manage the ongoing effectiveness and support of the system. This phase is critical as it ensures that the system continues to meet user needs and performs effectively throughout its operational life. It involves monitoring system performance, maintenance, and making necessary adjustments to accommodate changes in requirements or operational environments. This focus helps to ensure that the system remains relevant, efficient, and capable of delivering the intended outcomes while also providing support to users. In the context of the overall lifecycle, the Operations and Support phase is essential for sustaining system performance beyond the initial development and deployment phases. It encompasses activities such as training, technical support, and system upgrades, all aimed at maximizing the system's operational effectiveness.