DAU Program Management (PM) Practitioner Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

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Questions

1. **What is described as a threat capability established collaboratively that impacts system effectiveness?**

   A. Critical Intelligence Parameters

   B. Operational Capability Requirements

   C. System Performance Metrics

   D. Designated Threat Elements

2. **What consists of a set of process elements, or "tools," used to manage the execution of the system engineering process?**

   A. Technical Management Processes

   B. Risk Management Processes

   C. Quality Assurance Procedures

   D. Configuration Management Systems

3. **What is typically the first step in the DoD Resource Allocation process?**

   A. President's approval

   B. Congressional deliberation

   C. OMB distribution

   D. Contractor bid submission

4. **What document outlines the tools and techniques for assessing and recommending solutions as part of the DOTMLPF-P framework?**

   A. Capability Development Document

   B. Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership, Personnel, Facilities, and Policy Change Recommendation

   C. Operational Requirements Document

   D. National Defense Strategy

5. **What technical review is necessary for a successful Milestone B prior to the Engineering and Manufacturing Development Phase?**

   A. Preliminary Design Review

   B. Critical Design Review

   C. Integration Review

   D. System Verification Review

6. What is the primary goal of Stakeholder Engagement?

- **A. To eliminate all risks within the program**
- **B. To maximize communication and collaboration with stakeholders**
- **C. To budget for potential stakeholder expenses**
- **D. To identify unnecessary stakeholders**

7. What is a Program Risk Register?

- **A. A tool for budgeting**
- **B. A document containing identified risks and planned responses**
- **C. A schedule of project activities**
- **D. A database of employee performance records**

8. A software-costing model that bases cost estimates upon statistical data such as source lines of code is an example of a _____ costing model.

- **A. Fixed**
- **B. Parametric**
- **C. Analogous**
- **D. Adaptive**

9. Which one of the following is classified as a pillar of Cybersecurity?

- **A. Monitoring**
- **B. Availability**
- **C. Transparency**
- **D. Comprehensiveness**

10. What is the primary purpose of a Defense Appropriations Bill?

- **A. To authorize budget expenditures**
- **B. To allocate funds for only ongoing projects**
- **C. To set the budget ceiling for defense**
- **D. To review contractor performance**

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What is described as a threat capability established collaboratively that impacts system effectiveness?

A. Critical Intelligence Parameters

B. Operational Capability Requirements

C. System Performance Metrics

D. Designated Threat Elements

The concept described as a threat capability established collaboratively that impacts system effectiveness refers to Critical Intelligence Parameters. These parameters define specific indicators or characteristics related to threats that can significantly affect the performance and effectiveness of a system. They provide a focused way of understanding and anticipating the capabilities an adversary may possess, helping to ensure that the program can adapt and mitigate these potential threats effectively. By establishing these parameters collaboratively, various stakeholders can align their understanding of the threats and ensure that the system's design can address these challenges. Monitoring and defining Critical Intelligence Parameters is crucial in guiding development decisions, program direction, and risk management strategies, ultimately ensuring operational effectiveness in the face of evolving threats. The other options, while important in their own contexts, do not specifically focus on the collaborative establishment of threat capabilities affecting system effectiveness in the same way. Operational Capability Requirements pertain more broadly to the capabilities needed for operational success, System Performance Metrics deal with measuring the output and efficiency of a system, and Designated Threat Elements refer more specifically to recognized threats without the collaborative aspect emphasized in this context.

2. What consists of a set of process elements, or "tools," used to manage the execution of the system engineering process?

A. Technical Management Processes

B. Risk Management Processes

C. Quality Assurance Procedures

D. Configuration Management Systems

The correct choice identifies Technical Management Processes as the set of process elements or "tools" specifically designed to manage the execution of the system engineering process. These processes encompass various activities essential for acquiring, developing, and deploying a system, ensuring that technical parameters are met throughout the project lifecycle. Technical Management Processes typically include aspects such as planning, monitoring, and controlling the technical effort of a program. They ensure that the design and development of a system are aligned with the operational requirements and stakeholder expectations. By utilizing these processes, project managers can effectively coordinate the necessary tasks, identify potential issues early on, and implement corrective actions as needed. The emphasis on managing technical performance helps deliver a system that is not only functional but also cost-effective and timely. In contrast, the other options represent distinct areas of project management yet do not encapsulate the overall management of the system engineering process. Risk Management Processes focus on identifying, assessing, and mitigating risks throughout the project but do not provide a framework for managing technical execution directly. Quality Assurance Procedures are concerned with ensuring that products meet defined quality standards rather than managing the execution process of system engineering as a whole. Configuration Management Systems are essential for tracking and controlling changes in system components, but they alone do not encompass the broader management facilitation

3. What is typically the first step in the DoD Resource Allocation process?

A. President's approval

B. Congressional deliberation

C. OMB distribution

D. Contractor bid submission

The first step in the DoD Resource Allocation process is Congressional deliberation. This step is crucial because it establishes the legislative framework and funding priorities for the Department of Defense. Congress deliberates over budgets proposed by the administration, including discussions about national security needs and resource requirements for military operations. During this phase, lawmakers assess budget requests, make adjustments, and ultimately create appropriations that impact how resources will be allocated. The process begins with the President's budget proposal, but it is Congress that deliberates on this proposal, shaping the final allocation of funds based on deliberations and negotiations among various stakeholders. Understanding this sequence is essential for grasping how budget priorities are determined and enacted within the Department of Defense.

4. What document outlines the tools and techniques for assessing and recommending solutions as part of the DOTMLPF-P framework?

A. Capability Development Document

B. Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership, Personnel, Facilities, and Policy Change Recommendation

C. Operational Requirements Document

D. National Defense Strategy

The document that outlines the tools and techniques for assessing and recommending solutions within the DOTMLPF-P framework is the Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership, Personnel, Facilities, and Policy Change Recommendation. This comprehensive framework is designed to address the various aspects of military capability development and provides a structured approach to identify and implement capability gaps or improvements across multiple domains. By focusing on the components of DOTMLPF-P, this document helps stakeholders evaluate current practices and determine necessary changes or enhancements. It includes not only the areas traditionally associated with military capability, such as doctrine and training, but also newer considerations like policy changes. This ensures a holistic assessment and recommends solutions that address all facets of capabilities, making it a central reference for decision-making in program management. Other documents mentioned serve different purposes; for example, the Capability Development Document outlines specific capabilities needed but does not provide the detailed assessment tools. The Operational Requirements Document focuses on the requirements for specific operational capabilities, while the National Defense Strategy outlines overarching goals and strategies for national defense without delving into the specific tools and techniques for assessing DOTMLPF-P solutions.

5. What technical review is necessary for a successful Milestone B prior to the Engineering and Manufacturing Development Phase?

A. Preliminary Design Review

B. Critical Design Review

C. Integration Review

D. System Verification Review

The Preliminary Design Review (PDR) is a key technical review that assesses the design readiness of a system before transitioning into the Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD) phase. At this stage, the focus is on ensuring that the proposed design meets the operational requirements and that it is capable of being developed into a production model. The PDR allows the development team to present the system architecture and design approach, including the preliminary analysis of performance and risks. This review is critical in identifying any major issues early and ensuring that the project stays on track before moving on to more detailed design work in the EMD phase. The success of Milestone B depends heavily on demonstrating that the design can meet requirements, and the PDR serves as a primary gatekeeping mechanism for that determination. In contrast, the other technical reviews mentioned serve different purposes or occur at later stages in the development process. The Critical Design Review (CDR) is typically conducted after the PDR and focuses on confirming the detailed design before moving into production. The Integration Review and System Verification Review are also conducted at later stages to assess the integration of system components and verify system performance against specifications, respectively. Thus, these reviews do not precede Milestone B in the same way that the PDR

6. What is the primary goal of Stakeholder Engagement?

A. To eliminate all risks within the program

B. To maximize communication and collaboration with stakeholders

C. To budget for potential stakeholder expenses

D. To identify unnecessary stakeholders

The primary goal of stakeholder engagement is to maximize communication and collaboration with stakeholders. Effective engagement ensures that all relevant stakeholders are identified, their needs and expectations are understood, and their input is incorporated into decision-making processes. This collaborative approach not only enhances stakeholder satisfaction but also fosters a sense of ownership and alignment with program objectives, which can lead to improved project outcomes. In a successful program, stakeholders play varying roles and can significantly influence the program's direction and success. By actively involving them, program managers can identify potential issues early, gather valuable insights, and create partnerships that benefit the overall initiative. Engaging stakeholders effectively leads to better buy-in and support, which is crucial for achieving the program's goals. The other options present approaches that do not encapsulate the broad purpose of stakeholder engagement. While eliminating risks, budgeting for stakeholder expenses, or identifying unnecessary stakeholders may be part of stakeholder management activities, they do not represent the primary goal of fostering communication and collaboration that is central to effective stakeholder engagement.

7. What is a Program Risk Register?

A. A tool for budgeting

B. A document containing identified risks and planned responses

C. A schedule of project activities

D. A database of employee performance records

The Program Risk Register is a document that serves as a critical part of project and risk management. It contains detailed information about identified risks associated with a program, including their potential impact, likelihood of occurrence, and planned responses or mitigation strategies. The purpose of the risk register is to provide a structured approach to risk management, allowing project managers and stakeholders to track, assess, and address risks throughout the project lifecycle. This proactive management of risks helps ensure that potential issues are identified early and can be mitigated effectively, thereby increasing the likelihood of project success. In contrast, the other options do not accurately describe the function of a Program Risk Register. Budgeting tools are focused on financial management, schedules of project activities outline timelines and milestones, and databases of employee performance records pertain to human resource management rather than risk management. Therefore, the definition outlined in the correct answer precisely encapsulates the essence of what a Program Risk Register is meant to accomplish.

8. A software-costing model that bases cost estimates upon statistical data such as source lines of code is an example of a _____ costing model.

A. Fixed

B. Parametric

C. Analogous

D. Adaptive

The reference to a software-costing model that utilizes statistical data, such as source lines of code (SLOC), aligns with the characteristics of a parametric costing model. Parametric models leverage historical data and statistical relationships to estimate costs based on defined parameters. In this context, the size of the software, often measured in lines of code, serves as the primary parameter for cost estimation. By applying empirical data and mathematical equations, this model produces estimates that can vary with different inputs, making it a powerful tool in software project management. Such models are valuable because they can provide consistent, objective estimates that can be applied across various projects with similar characteristics. This ability to quantify and predict cost based on measurable inputs sets parametric models apart from other types of costing models. It enhances decision-making by allowing project managers to understand potential costs associated with different project sizes and complexities more effectively.

9. Which one of the following is classified as a pillar of Cybersecurity?

A. Monitoring

B. Availability

C. Transparency

D. Comprehensiveness

The classification of Availability as a pillar of Cybersecurity is rooted in the fundamental objectives of the cybersecurity framework, often described as the "CIA Triad," which stands for Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability. Availability ensures that authorized users have timely and reliable access to information and resources when they need them. This focus on Availability is crucial because even the most secure system can be ineffective if authorized users cannot access the information or services they require. Cybersecurity measures must, therefore, aim to protect not only data from unauthorized access and manipulation but also to ensure that systems remain operational and accessible under various circumstances, including attacks or technical failures. By prioritizing Availability, organizations can maintain functionality and service delivery, which is essential for business continuity. In contrast, while other options such as Monitoring, Transparency, and Comprehensiveness play significant roles in broader cybersecurity practices, they do not encapsulate the foundational principles of a cybersecurity framework in the same way that Availability does.

10. What is the primary purpose of a Defense Appropriations Bill?

A. To authorize budget expenditures

B. To allocate funds for only ongoing projects

C. To set the budget ceiling for defense

D. To review contractor performance

The primary purpose of a Defense Appropriations Bill is to set the budget ceiling for defense. This type of legislation plays a crucial role in determining how much funding is allocated to various defense programs, activities, and initiatives within the government. By establishing a budget ceiling, it provides a framework for managing expenditures and ensuring that the Department of Defense and other related agencies operate within the financial limits set by Congress. Setting a budget ceiling is essential for controlling spending and prioritizing defense initiatives, ensuring that the allocated funds align with national security priorities and objectives. It establishes the financial boundaries for defense operations, influencing how resources are distributed across various projects and ensuring accountability for the use of federal funds in defense spending. In contrast, while authorizing budget expenditures might seem like a relevant function of an appropriations bill, its primary role focuses more on setting those ceilings rather than directly authorizing spending. Similarly, allocating funds for only ongoing projects does not encompass the broad purpose of the bill, which includes new initiatives as well. Lastly, reviewing contractor performance is not a primary function of an appropriations bill, as it pertains more to oversight and evaluation rather than budget setting.