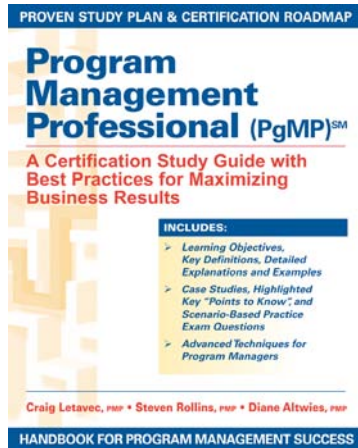


PM World Today Book Review



Book Title: *Program Management Professional (PgMP)SM – A Certification Study Guide with Best Practices for Maximizing Business Results*

Authors: Craig Letavec, PMP; Steven Rollins, PMP; Diane Altwies, PMP

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Reviewer: Andrea Zittel

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Introduction to the Book

From the perspective of real PMP's, this book reviews program management in a straightforward manner. This book steps through the phases of project management as well as other topics pertinent as a study review for the PgMP exam. Although, this book is written primarily for a PgMP candidate, it also contains numerous useful project management practices for the workplace.

Overview of Book's Structure

In a collection of twenty-one chapters, the authors cover topics from understanding the relationship of Program Management Certification, Project Life Cycles, Project Management Process Groups, Process Mapping, and OPM3[®]. Additionally an entire chapter is devoted to building a road map for taking the PgMP exam. Lastly, the authors cover the topic of how to sell project management certification at the office.

Each chapter begins with a list of learning objectives for that chapter as well as key definitions and terms. The authors have included meaningful figures and tables throughout each chapter. Similarly, "points to know" are highlighted in boxes throughout each chapter, with tips and reminders for test preparation. At the end of each chapter there are ten review questions.

The publisher also offers bonus material through the Web Added View (WaV), including downloadable study aids and program management tools.

Highlights: What I liked!

Questions were posed at the end of each chapter, with answers provided in appendix B, along with the complete question and bolding of the correct answer. The objective reference was also included. This is really helpful during review, especially if you get the question wrong.

Core chapters covered the five key process groups and were detailed and sufficiently discussed. Supporting chapters were concise and straight to the point. The chapter covering how to prepare a road map to the PgMP exam was fantastic. It offers guidance for any person preparing to take the PgMP. Moreover, the chapter provides an outline and plan for understanding the study time needed to master each of the process groups.

Shortfalls: What was Missing!

Overall, this is a great reference book. Perhaps, there could have been more questions to sufficiently test the chapters on process groups, especially the forty-two pages covering the planning process.

Who might benefit from the Book

This book would benefit any individual preparing to study for the PgMP. This book prepares an individual for the key competencies tested in the PgMP exam including the 35 task areas, 218 knowledge components, and 209 skill proficiencies. Lastly, the chapter on preparing a personal road map and completing a self-assessment to determining study time required are invaluable to a person planning to take the PgMP exam.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this book is a must read for any person preparing for the PgMP exam. The text offers a straightforward approach to the subject with excellent discussion and examples. This book also uses, with permission, the figures from PMI's PMBOK Guide to help describe each process group. The questions at the end of each chapter, in themselves, serve as a set of test bank questions. Although targeted toward the PgMP candidate, it also serves as a good reference book, with chapters on developing the softer side of PM's, portfolio program management, program management process mapping and PMO dedicated to understanding how program management relates to the real business world.

About the Reviewer:***Andrea Zittel***

Andrea Zittel worked for 7 years as an Industrial Engineer in Texas Instrument's 300mm DMOS6 Wafer Fab, located in Dallas, Texas. She joined Texas Instruments in August 1998 as a planner for DFAB Wafer Fab. Before August 1998, Ms. Zittel was a Manufacturing Team Leader with TwinStar Semiconductor in Richardson, Texas. Ms Zittel attended New Mexico State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering. Zittel can be reached at email address azittel@ti.com.