APM Project
Management
Qualification *(PMQ)*

Assessment Specification

Assessment Specifications

This document outlines the specifications for the questions and examination papers for:

- PMQ, the APM Project Management Qualification.
- PMQ for PRINCE2® Practitioners.

This examination comprises the external assessment for the PMQ, the APM Project Management Qualification.

These specifications are provided for:

- APM staff: to construct fit for purpose exam papers and manage the question writing and paper production process.
- APM's Professional Standards and Knowledge Committee: for quality assurance purposes.
- APM's Senior Examiner Team (SET): for quality assurance purposes, to ensure all questions and papers meet the agreed specifications.
- Question writers: to ensure all questions are written in accordance with the specifications.
- Accredited Providers: for information purposes.
- Markers: for information purposes.

Project Management Qualification Examination

1. Context

PMQ is a knowledge-based qualification that allows candidates to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of project management.

2. a Examination overview for PMQ

The examination is based upon the learning outcomes and assessment criteria specified in the APM PMQ Syllabus.

The PMQ examination:

- Is of three hours duration.
- Has been designed for candidates to answer 10 question within 2.5 hours, with 30 minutes to read questions and review answers.
- Contains 16 equally weighted questions, from which candidates must select 10 questions.

b Examination overview for PMQ for PRINCE2® Practitioners

The examination is based upon the learning outcomes and assessment criteria for the PMQ for PRINCE2® Practitioners syllabus.

The PMQ for PRINCE2® Practitioners examination:

- Is of two hours duration.
- Has been designed for candidates to answer 6 questions within 1.5 hours, with 30 minutes to read questions and review answers.
- Contains 10 equally weighted questions, from which candidates must select 6 questions.

The following specifications relate to both the PMQ and PMQ for PRINCE2® Practitioners.

3. Examination instructions to candidates

Instructions given to the candidates are available on the APM website: www.apm.org.uk.

4. Specification for a PMQ examination paper

Each question paper will contain a balance of questions addressing the PMQ examination syllabus aligned to *APM Body of Knowledge 7th edition*. The learning outcomes examined on each paper will be in accordance with the following:

- An assessment criterion is examined only once on any one question paper.
- The questions forming each paper will be drawn from the range of learning outcomes.

5. Allocation of marks for the paper

Every examination paper clearly shows how marks are allocated to each of the questions. Where questions are sub-divided, the mark allocation is shown for each part of each question.

6. Pass mark

The pass mark is 55% of the available marks*. Each question carries a maximum of 50 marks.

This may be changed on the recommendation of the Senior Examiner Team during the lifetime of the qualification.

PMQ:

- If a candidate answers fewer than ten questions, the unanswered questions of the ten are scored at zero. If a candidate answers more than ten questions, markers will only mark the first ten questions submitted. The marks required to pass are achieved over the ten questions.

PMQ for PRINCE2® Practitioners:

- If a candidate answers fewer than six questions, the unanswered questions of the six are scored at zero. If a candidate answers more than six questions, markers will only mark the first six questions submitted. The marks required to pass are achieved over the six questions.
- There is no requirement to achieve a pass mark on every question attempted to attain an overall pass.

7. Specification for an PMQ examination question

Each question:

- Is worth 50 marks.
- Is allocated 15 minutes to answer.
- Will address one learning outcome and allow candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding in relation to the learning outcome.
- Will clearly indicate where a specific number of answers are required.
- Will be subdivided into **two** parts each of which will:
  - Address the same learning outcome.
  - Be identified using lower case letters, that is a and b.
  - Clearly show the marks allocated.
- Will stand alone and not rely on an answer from another question in the examination paper.

8. Command verbs

- The following command verbs are used in the syllabus and in questions.

Verb	Definition
Differentiate	Recognise or determine what makes something different.
Define	Give the nature, scope or meaning.
Describe	Give an account, including all the relevant characteristics, qualities and events.
Explain	Give an account of the purpose(s) or reason(s).
Interpret	Translate information/data into another form to aid understanding, to demonstrate understanding or to inform a future action.
Outline	Set out the main points/characteristics.
State	Express the details without elaboration.