

Examination key matrix

IPMA D, C and B (ICB4)



1. Competence areas

The key matrix indicates how the exam material is spread over the different competence areas. ICB4 contains 28 competence-elements, spread over three competence areas: namely: Perspective (C), People (G) and Practice (V).

A sample from all three competence areas will be taken in the theoretical-exams for IPMA-D, IPMA-C and IPMA-B. The rules that apply to this sample have been established in this taxonomy. De taxonomy has been established according to the rules of the “Certification Regulations version 4 (ICR4)” of IPMA. The mandatory division of the questions spread over the competence areas is as follows:

Competence area	level D	level C	level B
Technical	70%	60%	40%
Behavioural	15%	20%	30%
Contextual	15%	20%	30%

To obtain a balanced division of the questions within the individual competence areas; a further subdivision has been made in competence groups:

Competence group	Competence-elements	Number of topics
(Set-up) Output	V1 V2 V3 V13	6 (1+1+3+1)
(Planning and) Design	V4 V5 V6	5 (1+2+2)
Input	V7 V8 V9	6 (3+1+2)
Control	V10 V11 V12	10 (6+3+1)
(People) Personal	G1 G2 G3 G9 G10	13 (3+2+6+1+1)
(People) Team Oriented	G4 G5 G6 G7 G8	10 (3+1+2+2+2)
(Perspective) Organization	C2	9
(Perspective) Remainder	C1 C3 C4 C5	9 (4+3+1+1)

Within the principal division of the exam questions according to the ICR4 below mentioned subdivision in points will be respected for the different exam components:

Competence area	Level D	Level C	Level B
(Set-up and) Output	14-18	9-12	5-8
(Planning and) Design	14-18	9-12	5-8
Input	14-18	9-12	5-8
Control	14-18	9-12	5-8
(People) Personal	5-8	5-8	9-12
(People) Team Oriented	5-8	5-8	9-12
(Perspective) Organization	5-8	5-8	9-12
(Perspective) Remainder	5-8	5-8	9-12
Total	90*	68***	68**

* 45 (points) multiple choice questions and 45 points open questions

** only open questions

2. Nature of the questions

Besides dividing the questions over the competence areas the nature of the questions will be taken into account. Three types of questions will be distinguished:

- c – comprehension;
- p – application;
- a – analysis.

This is the division for all different levels:

Competence area	level D	level C	level B
Comprehension	70 - 80%	55 - 65%	40 - 50%
Application	20 - 30%	30 - 40%	40 - 50%
Analysis	n.v.t.	0 - 5%	5 -15%

3. Literature during the examination

The IPMA D and C exams are closed-book examinations: no literature may be consulted when making the exam.

The IPMA B exam is an open book exam: while making the exam it is allowed to consult own literature (no notes!). The number of books that may be taken in the examination room is limited to 2.

4. Example questions

Comprehension questions

- Mention three differences between a line organisation and a project organisation
- Explain the difference between the project result and the goal of the project
- Give an example of an open question

Application questions

- Calculate the NPV of the project based on this case
- Draw up a WBS trusting the information in this case
- Create a critical-path-planning trusting the information in this case

Analysis questions

- Analyse the offered project approach in the case
- Assess if the risk responses in the case are sufficient. Explain your answer
- Evaluate the stakeholder managements' strategy pursued.