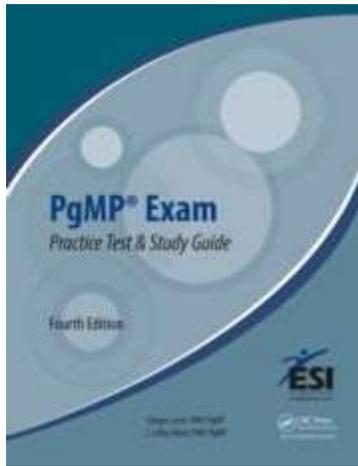


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## PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***PgMP Exam Practice Test and Study Guide, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition***

Author: **Ginger Levin, PMP, PgMP and J. LeRoy Ward, PMP, PgMP**

Publisher: **CRC Press / Auerbach Publications**

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Reviewer: **Shree Bhat** Review Date: August 2013

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### Introduction to the Book

The *Program management Professional (PgMP®) Exam Practice Test and Study Guide* book is a comprehensive and up-to-date resource available to help you prepare for the exam. It will serve as one of the key resources for building on your knowledge surrounding the five performance domains—Strategic Program Management, Program Life Cycle, Benefits Management, Stakeholder Management, and Governance—as presented in the Program Management Professional Examination Content Outline; in preparation for the test. In the book, the Program Life Cycle domain is further broken down into the phases of Initiating, Planning, Executing, Controlling and Closing the Program.

This study guide provides a brief introduction to each of the topics covered on the exam as study hints, it lists major topics under each domain/life cycle followed by a section of twenty multiple choice questions and answers. There are two full length practice tests available in the book along with a code for accessing the test online. You can take the test as many times as you would like. Scores for the online tests are presented as if each question is rated similarly, but this edition also includes a new component: the authors' own weighting system for the level of difficulty for each question. This system will show you what they feel meets the exam's criteria for Proficient, Moderately Proficient, and below Proficient. You then will see your scores by domain in both the approaches.

## Overview of Book's Structure

The *Program Management Professional (PgMP®) Exam Practice Test and Study Guide* book is structured around the major topics covered on the test based on the recent revisions to the PMI®'s Standard for Program Management - Third Edition (2013). The book features the list of topics covered on the exam, practical tips for study, references for further enhancing your understanding on the specific topics for the exam.

The book includes the following topics with practice questions:

- Introduction
- Strategic Program Management
- Initiating the Program
- Planning the Program
- Executing the Program
- Controlling the Program
- Closing the Program
- Benefits Management
- Stakeholder Management
- Governance
- Practice Test 1
- Practice Test 2
- References

Each section of the book begins with a short introduction of the performance domain or the program life cycle topic, provides study tips along with the introduction. Emphasis is laid on what areas and type of questions appear on the exam in this section. It is followed by a high level list of topics under the particular domain that one needs to be familiar with for taking the test. The section ends with twenty multiple choice practice questions followed by explanations for the answers; and a bibliographic reference to the answer if one prefers to further review and read up on the topic.

The review topics are followed by two full length practice tests. There is also a code provided to take the practice tests online which allows for you to answer questions at your own pace and save your answers. You can continue to work on them later on at other times. The online version also has two simulation tests that is timed similar to how the actual test is for four hours and asks 170 questions in random order from any of the domains of Program Management. The tests include answers, rationale behind the choice for the right answer and references for further enhancing your knowledge on the topic of the question.

## **Highlights: What's New in this Book**

The Fourth edition book is based on the revised PMI®'s *Standard for Program Management - Third Edition* (2013). The content has been updated to reflect the revisions and is appropriately reflected in the questions and answers under each of the knowledge areas of the life cycle and performance domains.

This edition also includes a new component: the authors' own weighting system for the level of difficulty for each question. This system will show you what they feel meets the exam's criteria for Proficient, Moderately Proficient, and below Proficient. You then will see your scores by domain in both approaches.

## **Highlights: What I liked!**

This book is a good resource to go over before the exam and refresh your knowledge and test you skill-set during your exam preparation. To do well on the exam, you should have gained knowledge about Program Management concepts and performance domain areas over the course of time. It would not be judicious to just prepare from this book and expect to ace the exam.

The Study Matrix provided as an appendix lists the various domain areas the questions appear on the practice tests and space to make some notes along with the difficulty level which is useful for the test taker.

## **Shortfalls: What was Missing!**

This book was specifically written as a question and answer type book. While the book lists the study hints and major topics in each section of the book, it would have been an added advantage to the readers if a short paragraph was included for each of the topics under the "Major Topics" section which currently only lists a high level outline of the list of topics. That would provide for a quick refresher on those topics for the test takers before the exam.

## **Who might benefit from the Book**

This book would be an useful resource for someone looking to get the PgMP® credential. As many of the professionals looking to take the exam have a busy professional life, this book would help them with a quick review or with final test preparation few days before the exam to test their proficiency in the knowledge areas recommended by PMI for the exam. This book was written by two of the first professionals to obtain PgMP® certification and provides an insider's look at the questions, phrases, terminology, and sentence construction you will encounter on the actual exam, this indispensable study tool was created to help you pass the most sought after PgMP® credential.

## Conclusion

This book is an indispensable resource for the people aspiring to become certified as a PgMP®. It provides valuable study hints and topic outlines for the preparation. The book also had 20 multiple choice questions for each domain as well as for each of the five phases of the program lifecycle. The answers section provides a brief rationale for the correct answer and provides resources and bibliographic references for further enhancing the knowledge on the topic.

Overall, this will be a great resource for the test takers as it also has two challenging full length tests in the book and provides a code that allows for taking the tests online as well.

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*PgMP® Exam Practice Test and Study Guide, Fourth Edition, by Ginger Levin; J. LeRoy Ward, published by CRC Press; Auerbach Publications; 2013, ISBN 9781482201352; \$ \$69.95 USD; 400 pages, 25 Illustrations; soft spiral bound cover. More at <http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781482201352>*

*Editor's note: This book review was the result of cooperation between the publisher, PM World and the Dallas Chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI Dallas Chapter – [www.pmidallas.org](http://www.pmidallas.org)). Publishers provide the books to PM World; books are delivered to the PMI Dallas Chapter, where they are offered free to PMI members to review; book reviews are published in the PM World Journal and PM World Library. PMI Dallas Chapter members are generally mid-career professionals, the audience for most project management books. If you are an author or publisher of a project management-related book and would like the book reviewed through this program, please contact [editor@pmworldjournal.net](mailto:editor@pmworldjournal.net).*

## About the Reviewer



### **Shree Bhat**

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Shree Bhat is a seasoned IT professional with a broad background and progressive experience in engineering, business, program management, software delivery and service management. His multitude of experience comes from many Fortune 30 companies in the domains of Telecom, Finance, Insurance, Healthcare, Supply Chain and Consulting. He is passionate about data, analytics, mentoring and coaching other professionals and servant leadership. In his spare time, he volunteers with a not-for-profit local food bank and an organization helping children with special needs in the local community.