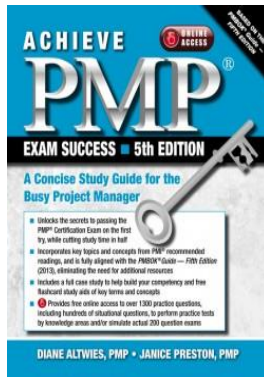

PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Achieve PMP Exam Success, 5th Edition***
Author: **Diane Altwies, PMP and Janice Preston, PMP**
Publisher: **J. Ross** List Price: US\$ 69.95
Format: soft cover; approx. 434 pages
Publication Date: 2013 ISBN: 978-1-60427-088-4
Reviewer: ***Francisco Ortiz***
Review Date: Dec 2013

Introduction to the Book

Is a study guide for the PMP that is designed to be used simultaneously with the PMBOK Guide. The book covers all the major subjects for the preparation of the PMP including the New Stakeholder Management section. It also contains a full practice exam with answers. This book also grants you access to the online resources at the publishers website, which includes 1300 practice questions and can randomly create 200 question exams. Online access also has printable flash cards and sound files. There is supposed to be a CD-ROM with practice questions, I did not have this in my borrowed copy. I would like to note that I borrowed this book.

Overview of Book's Structure

The book has a preface that spends a good amount detailing the changes from Guide 4th to 5th edition, which was done so for improvements as well as incorporating the New Stakeholder Management section. The Introduction section gives some high level guidance for seeking PMP or CAPM and how to use this book.

The First chap has some study tips, exam tips, memorization tips and formula hints. The first chapter also contains a 50 question assessment test, which can double as a second practice exam.

Chapters 2 through 13 are broken into major subjects. Each of those chapters starts with an introduction, things to know and key definitions. Then it goes on to detail the definitions. At the end of each chapter there are a set of practice questions and answers.

Highlights: What's New in this Book?

Contains the new Stakeholder Management section that was introduced in the most recent version of the PMBOK. I did not read the previous version so do not have more to compare it to.

Highlights: What I liked!

The chapters that discuss the subject matter all have a “things to know” which I used as a ‘when you are done with this section you should know this’ statement. I liked the assessment exam in chapter 1, which I used as an extra practice exam. Each chapter has little boxes that contain Exam tips, many of them are useful.

Shortfalls: What was Missing!

I have not taken the PMP test yet so my comments are based on only reading this book and the PMBOK.

The book reads like continuous pages of definitions, I would have liked to have seen more examples of some of the processes or case studies illustrating multiple points.

It would have been nice to see more flow charts for processes in motion.

Some sections like Cost and Procurement contain simple math that is written out in table. I would have liked to see the math in action.

It is all black and white; it would have been nice for some of the tables, graphs, and flow charts to have color to differentiate the different variables or processes being compared. Particularly fatiguing to the eyes after a long read.

In actual page numbers, the book has over 400 pages but you have to search with section and sub section page numbers.

The practice exams would have been more useful if they were in order of the subject matter of the book, (I understand the real test is not in order) but for this exam if they were in order it would be faster to look up the background information for the solutions.

Who might benefit from the Book

Those who are planning to take PMP exam and are looking for additional study material and practice exams.

Conclusion

I have been using this book now for almost a month and have come to rely on it as a solid backup to my other resources. Is a worthwhile book to pick up and read when you need a little extra brush up on a particular subject.

I still think the best part of this book is the practice exam and the access to the online practice questions. A worthwhile purchase for someone preparing to take the PMP exam!

Achieve PMP® Exam Success, 5th Edition, a Concise Study Guide for the Busy Project Manager, By Diane Altwies, PMP, and Janice Preston, PMP, Published by J. Ross Publishing; June 2013 ISBN: 978-1-60427-088-4, Softcover, 7.5 x 9.25, 488 pages More at <http://www.jrosspub.com/business/project-program-management/achieve-pmp-exam-success-5th-edition.html>

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). 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.

About the Reviewer



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Francisco Ortiz is an electrical engineer with 20 years of experience in the telecom industry. The last half of his career has been managing product development, product testing and Radio Access Network system integration. He is seeking his PMP certification.