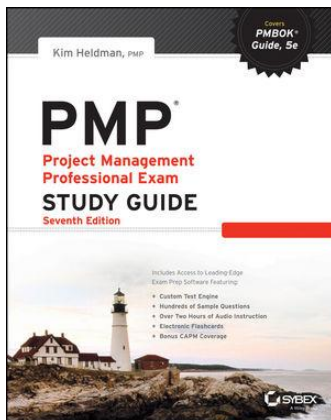


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***PMP Project Management Professional Exam Study Guide, 7th Edition***

Author: **Kim Heldman, PMP**

Publisher: SYBEX

List Price: \$59.99 Format: soft cover, 696 pages

Publication Date: 2013 ISBN: 978-1-118-53182-2

Reviewer: **Maryanne Coelln, PMP**

Review Date: 05/2015

Introduction

It was 2002, and I decided to study for the PMP exam. I researched what my local PMI chapter was using for their PMP exam review class, and it was the first edition of this book. I read it cover to cover over several weeks, took all of the quizzes, and appreciated how nicely it was laid out.

Since that time, I have recommended Kim's book over and over to others interested in project management, not restricting its use to preparing for the PMP exam. That's what sets this book apart from other exam resources. Kim has a real knack for organizing the material so that you are learning it to become a better project manager, not just pass a test. This book is the latest revision of her original work. She's updated it to reflect the most current version of the exam, and its original essence is retained.

Overview of Book's Structure

Kim aligns the chapters of the book with the process groups. This is an insightful departure from other study books, which are aligned by knowledge areas. This helps the new project manager with the understanding of how each process integrates with the other processes, which is more intuitive than learning about the knowledge areas in silos. Kim's approach on teaching these fundamentals makes it easier to digest. The PMP exam expects project managers to understand and know the inputs and outputs, so this structure definitely aids in studying for the exam. Kim includes an appendix with all of the inputs and outputs for easy reference.

The book starts with an assessment test to give you an idea how much you already know, and what you need to learn. Every chapter has quiz questions to help reinforce what you've just read. Additionally, there are many online resources available that supplement the book; downloadable / printable flash cards and two sample tests. Answers to all questions are provided in the book and/or online. Two hours of audio instruction via the web are also included.

Highlights

The best part of this book's approach is in the conversational writing style. As you read the paragraphs, it's as if Kim was right there with you explaining the concepts. Starting with "What is a Project" and ending with "Closing the Project and Applying Professional Responsibility", Kim's way of organizing each chapter with examples, tables, diagrams and exercises helps keep the topic relevant and the mind alert.

Highlights: What I liked!

I liked the numerous "Real World Scenario" sprinkled throughout the book. They enhanced the learnings of the process group Kim was describing and were completely believable and applicable. Using short case studies featuring various project managers and the situations they faced was very helpful in reinforcing the concepts, and I recognized similar situations that I've actually been in. I especially liked the scenarios that featured "me" as the project manager for the New Kitchen Heaven Retail Store.

The "Exam Spotlight" sections also helped reinforce the chapter concepts and targeted areas that are important on the exam.

Who might benefit from the Book?

Anyone who wants an approachable "how to" book about what project management is, what a project manager does, and a solid approach to study for the PMP exam would be the audience for this book.

Conclusion

I strongly recommend this book in any project manager's library. Although I also used additional study materials along with the first edition of this book to pass the PMP exam, I know that I absorbed what it is to be a project manager due to Kim more than any other material.

For more about this book, go to: <http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1118531825.miniSiteCd-SYBEX.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. Reviewers can keep the books and claim PDUs for PMP recertification. 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@peworldjournal.net.

About the Reviewer



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Maryanne Coelln, PMP, is Director of Project Delivery for the American Airlines Federal Credit Union. Maryanne has a B.S.C. degree in Marketing from Santa Clara University, California and earned her PMP in 2003. She has over 15 years of experience in leading technical project teams and is focused on developing practical methodologies. She has been an active member in the PMI Dallas Chapter for many years.