PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW

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Introduction

This book is about the PMP® certification exam. It has been written for those who would be interested in appearing for the PMP® certification exam. It follows the same path as the PMBOK Guide 5th Edition® which is a PMI publication and is considered a textbook for the exam.

However there is a difference. PMBOK® reading is based on chapters as laid out in the book, which are: First 3 chapters are about concepts related to project management, and from chapter 4 to 13 are related to the 10 knowledge areas (Integration, Scope, Time, Cost, Quality, HR, Communication, Risk, Procurement and Stakeholders). This book follows a different pattern. It follows the five process groups: Initiating, Planning, Executing, Monitoring and Controlling and Closing. This means that it follows the processes as one would follow while doing an actual project. Interesting indeed!

The book is well written, easy to understand and can be very useful in preparing for the PMP certification exam. It also has 230 review questions with answers and explanations.

Overview of Book’s Structure

One interesting fact about the book is that it does not follow the same pattern as the PMBOK®. It is structured on the 5 process groups. I.e. Initiating, Planning, Executing, Monitoring and Controlling, and Closing. The book has been divided into 6 chapters and an appendix at the end.

These Chapters are:
Chapter 1 – Project Foundation
Chapter 2 – Initiating the Project
Chapter 3 – Planning the Project
Chapter 4 – Executing the Project
Chapter 5 – Monitoring and Controlling the Project
Chapter 6 – Closing the Project
Appendix – Answers to review questions

Brief contents of the Chapters are given below:

**Chapter 1: Project Foundation**

The authors describe the essentials of Managing Projects. Topics include Defining a Project, Defining Project Management, Identifying Project Management Skills, Understanding Project Environment, Understanding Project Life Cycle and Project Management Processes, Recognizing Professional and Social Responsibility. This Chapter has 15 Review Questions.

**Chapter 2: Initiating the Project**

This chapter consists of topics related to Understanding the Project Management Knowledge Areas, Performing Project Management Assessment, Defining the High-Level Project Scope, Developing Project Charter, Obtaining Project Charter Approval, Performing Key Shareholders analyses and has 20 Review Questions.

**Chapter 3 – Planning the Project**

This is the longest chapter of the book and is related to all processes related to project planning. Some of these are developing plans for Scope, Schedule, Cost, Quality, HR, Communication, Risk, Procurement, Stakeholders and bringing the processes together in the Project Management Plan which is at the end of the chapter. The chapter has 20 review questions.

**Chapter 4 – Executing the Project**

This chapter has topic related to Executing process group. Topics are related to Obtaining and Managing Resources, Managing team Performance, Executing project management plan, Implementing Approved Changes, Quality Management plan, Risk Management Plan, and bring processes together. The chapter has 20 review questions.

**Chapter 5 – Monitoring and Controlling the Project**

This chapter has topics related to measuring project performance, Change control, control all knowledge areas, and managing stakeholder engagement. This chapter also has 20 review questions.
Chapter 6 – Closing the Project

This is the last chapter in the book and describes the topics related to closing or phase and project. These are topics such as Obtaining Final Acceptance, Transferring Ownership, Financial and Administrative closing, Distributing final reports and 15 review questions.

Appendix – Answers to review questions; the appendix has explanation to all the 230 review questions.

Highlights

One of the major highlights of the book is its structure, which is different from how the PMBOK® is structured. Although all the processes given in the PMBOK® are described in this book, it has been done in a totally different manner. The book follows the process groups (Initiating, Planning, Executing, Monitoring and Controlling and Closing) instead of the knowledge areas.

For some readers it may be a better way for understanding the requirements related to the PMP® exam requirements. The language is easy to understand and the explanations given are clear and diagrams are attached wherever required. The book is easy to follow.

Highlights: What I liked!

The book has good explanations which are easy to understand. It can be a supplementary book which can be used alongside the PMBOK®. The books is also good for the exam as it has 230 practice questions. Chapters 1 and 6 have 15 questions each, while chapter 2-5 have 20 questions each. Explanation related to the questions is given in the Appendix.

It would a very good companion for the PMBOK® for explanations and for understanding the concepts.

Who might benefit from the Book?

Anyone who is preparing for the PMP® exam can benefit from this book. The book has good explanations and follows a different pattern as compared to the PMBOK®. Reading this books gives a different prospective regarding the 47 various processes given on page 61 of PMBOK®

Conclusion

Generally, the book *Project Management Professional Exam. Review Guide. Third Edition*, authored by Kim Heldman PMP®; Vanina Mangano PMP®; and Bett Fedderesen PMP® is worth reading if one is preparing for the PMP® exam. It
explains the 47 processes very well and also tests the reader in various areas with 230 questions.

As the book is written in a different manner compared to PMBOK®, one can have a better understanding on how to handle projects more effectively. However it cannot replace the PMBOK® 5th Edition which is the primary book to read while preparing for the PMP exam.


Editor’s note: This book review was the result of a partnership between the publisher, PM World and the PMI Dallas Chapter. Authors and 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 can keep the books as well as claim PDUs for PMP recertification when their reviews are published. 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.

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Engr. Masood Said, PMP, PMI-RMP, PMI-ACP, BS.C (Mech. Engr.; MS-IT; EMBA-HR Mngt.) is a Mechanical Engineer with over 35 years of Project Management Experience. He has worked in Pakistan and the Middle East on various Oil and Gas projects. He has been a member of PMI since 2002. Presently he is a trainer for PMP®; PMI-RMP®; PMI-ACP® certification courses. He also advises companies on optimization and improvement in processes. Based in Lahore, Pakistan, he also travels to Dallas, Texas on a frequent basis.

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