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P3O Foundation Project Office 2013 Exam

PRINCE2 P3O-Foundation

Version Demo

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QUESTION NO: 1

A project is seeking approval to start. Its Business Case shows a strong local benefit, but the Portfolio Office identifies that it requires the same specialist resources as two mandatory regulatory changes already approved.

What should the Portfolio Office provide to support the investment decision?

- A. Approve the project because it has a positive Business Case
- B. Provide analysis of the resource conflict and portfolio impact
- C. Require the project to recruit its own specialist resources
- D. Assume the regulatory changes will resolve their own resource needs

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The Portfolio Office should provide analysis of the resource conflict and its effect on portfolio priorities. Portfolio management considers the total demand on constrained resources, including mandatory change and business-as-usual commitments, so decision-makers can sequence, defer or reprioritize work realistically.

Approving the project solely because its local benefit is strong ignores its impact on the wider portfolio. Requiring the project to recruit independently may not be feasible and does not resolve the portfolio-level capacity issue. The Portfolio Office supports the decision; it does not take over delivery of the regulatory changes.

QUESTION NO: 2

How does a P3O typically deliver an information portal to the PPM community?

- A. Through an intranet site showing templates and guidance
- B. By documenting business process swimlanes
- C. Using programme and project management forums
- D. By appropriate capacity planning for resource management

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Through an intranet site showing templates and guidance is correct because an information portal is a practical P3O service that gives the programme, project and portfolio management community a single, accessible source of approved information. An intranet-based portal can make standard templates, methods, guidance, processes, lessons, tools and examples available consistently to practitioners. This supports the P3O objective of enabling effective delivery by promoting common ways of working, improving access to organizational knowledge and reducing the effort required for teams to locate reliable management information. The portal also helps embed governance and assurance expectations by presenting current materials in a controlled location, rather than relying on informal or disconnected sources. P3O guidance describes the information portal as a means of providing PPM practitioners with access to relevant standards, guidance and reusable assets, commonly through an intranet site. This service is particularly valuable where multiple projects and programmes need to apply a coherent organizational framework while retaining access to lessons and best practice. Further information on P3O's role in supporting portfolios, programmes and projects is available from [PeopleCert's P3O certification page](#) and [AXELOS P3O guidance](#).

QUESTION NO: 3

Which occurs when the P3O implementation programme is closed?

- A. Vision Statement is to reflect delivery

- B. Blueprint is produced to document processes
- C. Risks to the implementation are captured
- D. P3O capability becomes business as usual

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

P3O capability becomes business as usual occurs on closure of the P3O implementation programme. The implementation programme is a temporary change initiative established to design, build, embed, and transition the P3O model into normal organizational operations. Its closure confirms that the required P3O services, processes, governance arrangements, roles, tools, and supporting behaviours have been established sufficiently for the capability to operate sustainably without the dedicated implementation programme. Ownership transfers to the appropriate business-as-usual management structures, which then continue to run, maintain, measure, and improve the P3O capability as part of ongoing organizational practice. This transition is important because P3O is intended to provide enduring support for portfolios, programmes, and projects rather than exist only as a temporary implementation effort. Formal closure also enables the implementation programme's final review and handover activities to be completed while ensuring the operational P3O has clear accountability and continued sponsorship. The P3O Foundation guidance describes implementation as creating a sustainable organizational capability, with integration into normal operations representing the endpoint of that change. See the official PeopleCert [P3O certification overview](#) and the UK Government's [P3O publication page](#).

QUESTION NO: 4

Who, as a minimum, should review the resourcing of a Programme Office whilst it is running?

- A. Head of P3O and P3O Sponsor
- B. Head of Programme Office and Programme Manager of the relevant programme
- C. P3O Sponsor and Portfolio Analyst
- D. Head of COE and Programme Specialist

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

Head of Programme Office and Programme Manager of the relevant programme is correct because both roles have direct operational responsibility for ensuring that the Programme Office remains appropriately sized and capable throughout the programme's delivery. The Programme Manager is accountable for the programme's ongoing management and needs assurance that support services, controls, reporting, planning, risk management, and governance administration are available when required. The Head of Programme Office manages the office's day-to-day service, people, capacity, and performance, and is therefore best placed to identify whether its resources continue to match demand.

Reviewing resourcing while the office is operating is important because programme needs change over time: projects may be added, closed, delayed, or accelerated, and reporting and assurance requirements may vary by stage. A joint review allows the Programme Office's capacity and skills to be adjusted in line with the Programme Manager's current priorities, without losing the operational perspective needed to maintain effective support. This reflects the P3O principle that office services and resources should be aligned continuously with the organization's and programme's requirements. See the official [PeopleCert P3O certification overview](#) and the [UK government P3O guidance publication](#).

QUESTION NO: 5

Which is NOT a way that tools are typically used?

- A. Integrated
- B. Connected

C. Collaborative

D. Individual

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

Connected is the correct answer because P3O describes three typical ways in which tools can be used: individually by a single user, collaboratively by teams, and in an integrated manner across functions. These usage approaches reflect increasing coordination and organizational capability. An individual tool may support a person's planning, reporting, or analysis work; collaborative use enables several people to create, share, and maintain information; and integrated use links information and processes across relevant P3O functions and the wider organization. "Connected" may be a sensible informal description of technology that links systems or users, but it is not one of the defined P3O categories for how tools are typically used. Identifying the specified categories is important when considering a P3O tool strategy, since the appropriate approach should match the organization's needs, governance arrangements, and maturity. The P3O guidance is published by PeopleCert/AXELOS and is intended to support effective portfolio, programme, and project management offices. See the [PeopleCert P3O certification overview](#) and the [AXELOS P3O best-practice overview](#).

QUESTION NO: 6

What is a portfolio, programme and project management standards office?

A. Organization Portfolio

B. Hub Portfolio

C. Programme

D. COE

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

COE is correct because, in the P3O model, the Centre of Excellence provides the organization's portfolio, programme and project management standards capability. It establishes, maintains and promotes consistent methods, procedures, tools, guidance and best practice across the organization's change initiatives. The Centre of Excellence also supports capability and maturity development, helping the organization improve how it selects, governs, delivers and learns from portfolios, programmes and projects over time. This standards role is designed to make effective delivery practices reusable rather than leaving each initiative to develop its own approach independently. Depending on the organization's P3O design, the Centre of Excellence may provide assurance support, training, knowledge management and communities of practice, but its defining purpose is to act as the source of PPM standards and expertise. The P3O Foundation guidance describes the Centre of Excellence as a key P3O functional model that supplies this central standards, methods and continuous-improvement service. Further information on P3O and its purpose is available from [PeopleCert's P3O certification page](#) and [AXELOS' P3O overview](#).

QUESTION NO: 7

What technique enables people to share experiences by connecting people to information or to other people?

A. Complexity modelling

B. Knowledge management

C. Management dashboards

D. Skills development and maintenance

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

Knowledge management is correct because it provides a structured way to capture, organize, share, and reuse knowledge gained through projects, programmes, and portfolios. In a P3O environment, this includes both explicit knowledge, such as lessons reports, templates, guidance, and records held in repositories, and tacit knowledge, such as practical experience held by practitioners and subject-matter experts. The technique supports sharing by connecting individuals directly with useful information and by helping them locate colleagues, communities, or experts who can offer relevant experience. This improves consistency, reduces repeated mistakes, supports informed decision-making, and enables delivery teams to benefit from learning beyond their own immediate work. A P3O can facilitate knowledge management through lessons-management processes, accessible information stores, communities of practice, and mechanisms for identifying and contacting knowledgeable people. These activities help make organizational learning an ongoing service rather than leaving experience isolated within individual projects. AXELOS describes P3O as guidance for establishing and operating portfolio, programme, and project offices that support successful change delivery; see [PeopleCert's P3O certification information](#). The broader practice of systematically creating, sharing, and applying organizational knowledge is also described by [ISO 30401, Knowledge management systems](#).

QUESTION NO: 8

A Programme Office maintains programme plans, prepares reports for the Programme Board and coordinates risk reviews. The Programme Manager asks the Head of the Programme Office to perform the formal assurance review before approval of the next tranche.

What should the Head of the Programme Office do?

- A. Arrange an independent assurance review
- B. Use Programme Office staff to conduct the review
- C. Ask the Programme Manager to approve the review
- D. Defer the review until programme closure

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The Head of the Programme Office should arrange an independent assurance review. The office has been directly involved in supporting the programme's delivery controls and reporting, so it cannot provide the independent view required for assurance. It can coordinate the review, provide evidence and track agreed actions.

Using the office's own staff as reviewers would compromise independence. Asking the Programme Manager to approve the review would not provide independent assurance, as the Programme Manager is accountable for delivery. Delaying the review until the programme closes would remove the opportunity to inform the tranche decision.