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Your PMP Exam Study Plan 2021

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The PMP Exam is difficult. Preparation for the PMP demands your focus, attention, commitment, and determination. When you search on the internet you will find many people or companies that claim that you can prepare and pass the PMP in 2 weeks or a lesser time frame. That's nothing more than tall claims to get you on the hook for buying a course from them. It's commonly believed that if something is too good to be true, it's mostly not true at all.

What works best with an exam like the PMP is a consistent, sustained approach to preparation. Using this approach, you will not only have the time to understand each concept deeply but are also more likely to feel confident about your preparation for the PMP exam. In conclusion, patience and perseverance is the key.

Based on our experience with various students, we've shown below how you must prepare for the PMP exam and the suggested timelines for each topic. Please remember that these are only suggestions and not guidelines. Prepare at a comfortable pace for you but don't be too laid back. Set realistic time targets using this guide as a reference and work towards hitting them.

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In this timetable, you'll find suggested timelines for every topic. It includes time spent watching the videos for the chapter, reading the chapter from the PMBOK, and solving a handful of questions to check your understanding of the topic.

Note: Please use this timetable only as a guide. Individual times might vary.

Topic (from PMBOK 6)	Suggested Time
Project Management Framework	2.5 to 3 hours
Project Integration Management	4.5 to 5 hours
Project Scope Management	3 to 3.5 hours
Project Schedule Management	4.5 to 5 hours
Project Cost Management	3 to 3.5 hours
Project Quality Management	2.5 to 3 hours
Project Resource Management	3.5 to 4 hours
Project Communications Management	2.5 to 3 hours
Project Risk Management	3.5 to 4 hours
Project Procurement Management	3 to 3.5 hours
Project Stakeholder Management	2 to 2.5 hours
Professional and Social Responsibility	1 to 1.5 hours
Project Management Processes	7 to 7.5 hours

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Topic (from Agile Practice Guide)	Suggested Time
Introduction to Agile	1.5 to 2 hours
Project Lifecycle selection	45 mins to 1 hour
Creating an agile environment	1.5 to 2 hours
Delivering in an agile environment	1.5 to 2 hours
Organizational considerations for agility	1 to 1.5 hours
Overview of lean and agile frameworks	1.5 to 2 hours
Additional resources (optional but helpful)	3.5 to 4 hours

In addition to the PMBOK 6 and the Agile Practice Guide, you must read the Scrum Guide too. Scrum is the most popular agile framework, and therefore you must know Scrum well. You'll be able to tackle several agile questions in the exam should you have a good understanding of Scrum. You should try reading the Scrum Guide a couple of times (3-4) and pay attention to every single sentence that you can. It's a short document but summarizes Scrum well. You must set aside another 2 to 2.5 hours for reading the scrum guide.

You will find the scrum guide here in this link: https://scrumguides.org/docs/scrumguide/v2020/2020-Scrum-Guide-US.pdf

Note: You can add up the totals of the total number of hours required for the PMBOK, Agile Practice Guide, the Scrum Guide and a 4-5 full length mock tests and plan your test accordingly.

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Common FAQs

1. **Should you read the PMBOK 7th edition for the new 2021 edition of the PMP Exam?**

PMI has clearly mentioned that the PMBOK 7 is not a reference book for the PMP exam. This means that at least officially, PMI is not encouraging you to read the PMBOK 7 for the PMP exam. However, it's also important to recognise that the PMBOK 7 is the next version to the PMBOK 6 and that some content from the PMBOK 6 will also be found in the PMBOK 7.

Also, PMBOK 7 begins the 'Standards for Project Management, which primarily covers the principle-based mindset that PMI is advocating through its new version of the book. You can read the 'Standards for Project Management' section from the PMBOK 7 since this will help you understand the project management mindset that could be helpful while answering questions in the PMP exam.

It's okay to skip reading the rest of the PMBOK 7th edition.

2. **Should you skip reading all the books altogether?**

Many people are not readers and hence do not enjoy reading the PMBOK or any other related project management books. Different people have different preparation styles. Some might enjoy only watching videos, some might buy a PMP summary guide off the market, and some might combine both of these approaches. There are cases where people have passed the PMP exam without reading the PMBOK or other books altogether, and maybe they had some experience and combined with that they got lucky.

While we recognize that people can get by without reading the PMBOK, this is a risky approach. If you do not read the PMBOK, there could be critical concepts that you might miss altogether, for example, some tool or technique discussed in the PMBOK but never came up with the summary guidebook you read or the video course you took.

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Eventually, while writing the exam, you might be in for a surprise because you never heard of the concept before, which could cause panic during the exam and might be detrimental to your exam performance.

Our video courses are very comprehensive and go into a lot of depth, taking you through every concept from the PMBOK and other books, but even then, we recommend you to read the PMBOK. Use video courses as a supplement to the reading or vice versa. You must define and follow an approach suitable to your learning style and if you decide not to read the PMBOK, you must also recognize the risk you're taking by not reading the PMBOK.