

Signal Words for the PMP Exam

The PMP exam questions refer to contents related to

- Traditional methods, including
 - long-term predictive (= “Waterfall”)
 - iterative-incremental (= “Rolling Wave”).
- Adaptive/agile methods.
- Hybrid (= mixed methods)



Particularly in situational questions, it may at times be difficult to understand in which of the method environments an exam item (question and answer options) is located if it is not explicitly stated in the question. This may make it difficult to select the right answer.

The use of certain keywords in the question may signal to you in which method world a question is located:

Black term: Strong signal - Grey term: Weak signal

If you find words from different method worlds mixed, assume the question is meant for a hybrid approach.

“Agile”	“Rolling wave”	“Waterfall”
Adaptive	Adaptive	
	Analogous estimating	Analogous estimating
Artifact		
	Assumptions log	Assumptions log
	Audits	Audits
	Authorization	Authorization
Backlog		
	Bottom-up estimating	Bottom-up estimating
	Budget	Budget
Burndown chart		
Burnup chart		
	Change control	Change control

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“Agile”	“Rolling wave”	“Waterfall”
	Change request	Change request
Configuration management	Configuration management	Configuration management
Continuous delivery		
Continuous integration		
	Contingency reserve	Contingency reserve
	Control account	Control account
	Cost baseline	Cost baseline
	Cost management	Cost management
	Critical path	Critical path
Daily scrum (or standup)		
	Decomposition	Decomposition
	Deliverable	Deliverable
Documentation	Documentation	Documentation
	Earned value technique	Earned value technique
Epic		
Fibonacci		
	Forecasts	Forecasts
	Funding requirements	Funding requirements
	HR plan	HR plan
	Human assets	Human assets
	Human resources	Human resources
Impediment		
Incremental delivery	Incremental delivery	Incremental delivery
Information radiator		
Iteration backlog		

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“Agile”	“Rolling wave”	“Waterfall”
Iterative-incremental	Iterative-incremental	
Kanban board		
	Kickoff meeting	Kickoff meeting
	Logical dependencies	Logical dependencies
	Management plan	Management plan
	Measurements	Measurements
Minimum viable increment		
Minimum viable product		
	Network diagram	Network diagram
On-boarding meeting	On-boarding meeting	On-boarding meeting
	Quality management	Quality management
Pair programming		
	Parametric estimating	Parametric estimating
Phase gate	Phase gate	Phase gate
Planning poker		
PMO	PMO	PMO
Product acceptance	Product acceptance	Product acceptance
Product backlog		
Product owner		
	Progressive elaboration	
	Project charter	Project charter
	Project management process	
	Project management team	Project management team
Project manager	Project manager	Project manager
Project phase	Project phase	Project phase

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“Agile”	“Rolling wave”	“Waterfall”
Project sponsor	Project sponsor	Project sponsor
	Quality assurance	Quality assurance
	Report	Report
Relative estimates		
	Requirements traceability matrix	Requirements traceability matrix
Retrospective		
Resources	Resources	Resources
	Risk management	Risk management
	Risk register	Risk register
	Schedule baseline	Schedule baseline
	Schedule	Schedule
	Scope creep	Scope creep
	Scope statement	Scope statement
Scrum master		
Self-organized team		
Servant-leadership		
Slicing		
Spike		
Sprint		
Sprint backlog		
	Stakeholder register	Stakeholder register
	Statement of work	Statement of work
Story points		
	Task assignment	Task assignment
Team charter	Team charter	Team charter

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“Agile”	“Rolling wave”	“Waterfall”
Test-driven design / development		
Time boxing		
	Top-down estimating	Top-down estimating
T-shaped skills		
T-shirt sizing		
User story		
Velocity		
	WBS	WBS
	Work authorization system	Work authorization system
	Work package	Work package