



























Sample Paper Question

18

Sample Question

Q. (a) Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Supply Chain Management (SCM) are a set of business processes and activities that take place within an Enterprise. Using a manufacturing company as an example, outline three processes/activities that would typically be required as part of either ERP or SCM.

[5 Marks]

(b) For *each of the three* examples that you have described in answer (a) above, explain how an ERP or SCM software system could provide functionality that would support those processes/activities.

[10 Marks]

(c) For **each of the three examples** that you have described in answer **(a)** above, explain how ERP / SCM **software system** functionality could enable increases in *Efficiency* and *Effectiveness* for those processes/activities.

[9 x 2 Marks]

Outline/Approach to Answer – Part (a)

Question

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Supply Chain Management (SCM) are a set of business processes and activities that take place within an Enterprise. Using a manufacturing company as an example, outline three processes/activities that would typically be required as part of either ERP or SCM.

[5 Marks]

Sample Answers

- Sales Order Process managing the activities of capturing and planning the delivery of products relating to a customer order.
- Monitoring Inventory the levels of supplies, materials or finished products needs to be monitored so that there is sufficient quantities available at any given time
- Supplier ordering need to order and process the delivery of supplier's goods.

20

Outline/Approach to Answer – Part (b)

Question

For *each of the three* examples that you have described in answer (a) above, explain how an ERP or SCM **software system** could provide functionality that would support those processes/activities.

[10 Marks]

Sample Answer for Sales Order Process:

Functionality:

An ERP system would provide a user interface to allow operators to create and update customers sales order. This functionality would execute based on real time data from other departments such as inventory/warehousing, logistics and finance. E.g. an existing customer may have a good credit history and so can get favourable payment terms. Goods may be available immediately and can be shipped same day depending on inventory and logistics links. Functionality would also allow for automated creation of orders based on automated integration links with customer systems.

Outline/Approach to Answer – Part (c)

Question

For *each of the three* examples that you have described in answer (a) above, explain how ERP / SCM **software system** functionality could enable increases in *Efficiency* and *Effectiveness* for those processes/activities.

[9 x 2 Marks]

Sample Answer for Sales Order Process:

Efficiency: Having such an (semi-)automated order creation system greatly streamlines the process for both the organisation and customers (less steps, checks and communication delays). User interfaces that use real-time information from other business departments/units means the turn around time for customers can be increased. This leads to increased customer satisfaction and greater visibility within the organisation.

Effectiveness: The extent to which an ERP system can effectively manage the sales order process depends on the organisational approach. Having said that, businesses can adopt best practice, templated activities that an ERP system is designed to provide with the view of being capable of catering for different needs in different enterprises. You would expect an ERP system to be able to handle most of, if not all, the required activities in a manner which minimises the resources necessary to fulfil the requirement. Having a centralised system then means that the information captured and activities completed are available in real time to managers and decision makers.