Essay Type Questions

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Module 3: Project Planning & WBS - Essay Questions and Answers

Question 1: Define a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) and explain its importance in project planning and control.

Answer:

A Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) is a hierarchical decomposition of the total scope of work to be carried out in a project, broken down into smaller, manageable components known as work packages.

It provides a framework for cost estimation, scheduling, and resource allocation, ensuring that all work is accounted for and properly managed throughout the project lifecycle.

Question 2: Explain the process of creating a WBS and the criteria for determining the appropriate level of decomposition.

Answer:

The WBS creation process involves identifying major project deliverables, decomposing them into smaller work packages, assigning identification codes, and verifying completeness.

The appropriate level of decomposition is achieved when the work package can be estimated, assigned to a team member, and tracked for performance monitoring.

Question 3: Analyze the differences between the Top-Down and Bottom-Up approaches in WBS development.

Answer:

The Top-Down approach involves breaking down high-level project deliverables into smaller tasks, while the Bottom-Up approach starts with individual tasks and aggregates them to form the WBS.

Top-Down is effective for well-defined projects, whereas Bottom-Up is suitable for complex projects requiring detailed task identification.

Question 4: Discuss the role of the WBS Dictionary in project scope management and how it supports project control.

Answer:

The WBS Dictionary provides detailed descriptions for each work package, including scope, assumptions, resources, cost estimates, and schedule information.

It serves as a control document, ensuring that all project work is clearly defined and agreed

upon, preventing scope creep and facilitating accurate performance tracking.

Question 5: Evaluate the impact of effective project planning on project success and stakeholder satisfaction.

Answer:

Effective project planning establishes a clear project roadmap, aligns team members with project objectives, and identifies potential risks and mitigation strategies.

It ensures that all project components are well-coordinated, resources are properly allocated, and project deliverables meet stakeholder expectations, leading to higher success rates and stakeholder satisfaction.