Peer-graded Assignment: Applying the Agile Mindset and Techniques

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Your fellow learner has submitted their assignment anonymously and your review will be anonymous to them. All names are still visible to course instructors.

Blue Bank Remote Deposit Capture System

by Anonymous Learner
August 26, 2020

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PROMPT

Blue Bank has always used the traditional waterfall method to deliver IT projects. Harold Johnson and the company leadership have suggested that you also use traditional methods to build the software. You have a different idea. You think agile would be better for this situation.

In the space below, make a case to Harold as to why we should switch to agile (explain why using agile is a better choice for this project/situation). Be sure to support your argument by referring back to the case study text.

Agile methodology will come in handy since it involves even the stakeholders during the development process. At the end of every iteration, the team will have something tangible to present to the stakeholders. The stakeholders will review the feature and determine if it meets their requirements. This will enable the team make changes early enough instead of discovering it late which is the case in waterfall. The business stakeholders will assist in this.

Agile allows for flexible prioritization. The team will focus more on the customer driven features first and this will enable the stakeholders to realize the values of those features as early as possible. This is different in waterfall where the stakeholders have to wait till the whole project is done so as they can see the final product.

As observed, the team has no experience in mobile development yet it is a required feature in the project and also they have little knowledge about agile. Agile however has a window for learning whereby the team can deliver the product in iterations as they continue learning in the process.

Agile process also tends to deliver products faster compared to waterfall methodology. This is because it focuses on building something exactly as per the requirements and thus the team is most likely to deliver the product on time so that the company can start promoting the new service as soon as possible to ensure they don't lose customers.

RUBRIC

Please rate the overall quality of the response?

- 0 pts
  Invalid arguments
- 1 pt
  Valid arguments presented, but they are not complete
- 3 pts
  Valid and complete argument presented, but some of the supporting details are incorrect.
- 5 pts
  Valid arguments, covering all aspects; very convincing.
- 9 pts
  Valid argument that is complete and correct. In addition, had some out of the box reasoning, quoted some statistics to prove the point and quoted some benefits from the agile survey mentioned in the videos.

In the answer to part 1 of the question, did the learner identify **"speed to market"** (or something similar) as one of the characteristics? Did the learner specify the correct logic (using this to correctly support choosing agile)?

- 0 pts
  Didn't identify this as one of the reason for choosing Agile.
- 1 pt
  Identified this as the reason for choosing Agile, but the explanation was not appropriate.
- 2 pts
  Identified this as the reason for choosing Agile, and the explanation was appropriate.

In the answer to part 1 of the question, did the larner identify **"Unknown solution"** or **"Learning needed around technology"** (or something similar) as one of the characteristics and specified the correct logic?

- 0 pts
  Didn't identify this as one of the reason for choosing Agile.
- 1 pt
  Identified this as the reason for choosing Agile, but the explanation was not appropriate.
- 2 pts
  Identified this as the reason for choosing Agile, and the explanation was appropriate.

In the answer to part 1 of the question, did the learner identify **"unknown user needs"** (or something similar) as one of the characteristics and specified the correct logic?

- 0 pts
  Didn't identify this as one of the reason for choosing Agile.
- 1 pt
  Identified this as the reason for choosing Agile, but the explanation was not appropriate.
- 2 pts
  Identified this as the reason for choosing Agile, and the explanation was appropriate.

Any other feedback you have for the learner in terms of the quality, completeness, or correctness of the response?

PROMPT

Assume Harold liked your argument and agreed to proceed with agile on this project. In his reply, Harold asked for further guidance on how to move forward. Please reply back with the following:

1. What things will have to change on how this team operates and how key stakeholders interact or engage on this project. (Hint: as you have learned, for agile to be successful there are certain prerequisites and it poses certain challenges for leadership/business stakeholders as well)
2. The team is new to Agile and based on prerequisites for agile to be successful, please specify if you and your team need any help or training etc. If none, please state that.

One of the core values of agile is individual interactions over process and tools. What this means is that the team and stakeholders will have to meet face to face frequently when need be. Therefore, the team might have to shift and occupy one office for efficiency of the process.

Since the team is new to agile methodology and no mobile development experience, training them before they start the work will be best so that all members will be on the same page.

RUBRIC

Did the learner identify that team members currently sit on different floors, and, for agile to succeed, it will be beneficial to get the entire team to sit/work together.

- 0 pts
  Didn't identify this need.
- 2 pts
  Identified the need, but didn't give the correct argument.
- 4 pts
  Identified the need and gave the correct argument.
- 5 pts
  Identified the need, gave the correct argument, and suggested a potential solution. The solution included details like establishing a team room, etc.

Did the learner identify that business stakeholders currently sit in a different building and in agile they have to engage with the development team throughout the process? Business stakeholders cannot just hand-off requirements to the team. To succeed, these stakeholders must collaborate with the development team on daily basis.

- 0 pts
  Didn't identify this need
- 2 pts
  Identified the need but didn't give the correct argument
- 4 pts
  Identified the need and gave the correct argument
- 5 pts
  Identified the need, gave the correct argument, and suggested a potential solution and additional details, etc.

Did the learner specify training needs in terms of user experience, performance testing, and some agile coaching?

- 0 pts
  Didn't identify this need.
- 2 pts
  Identified the need but didn't give the correct argument.
- 4 pts
  Identified the need and gave the correct argument.
- 5 pts
  Identified the need, gave the correct argument, and suggested a potential solution and additional details.

Did the learner specify the need for training in engineering practices and specify that, unless team is setup for change (i.e has engineering practices in place), it will difficult to succeed in agile.

- 0 pts
  Didn't identify this need.
- 2 pts
  Identified the need but didn't give correct the argument.
- 4 pts
  Identified the need and gave the correct argument.
- 5 pts
  Identified the need, gave the correct argument, and suggested a potential solution and additional details.

Please rate overall quality of the response?

- 0 pts
  Invalid argument.
- 1 pt
  Valid argument, but not complete.
- 2 pts
  Valid, complete argument, but some of the supporting details are incorrect.
- 3 pts
  Valid argument, covering all aspects, and very convincing.
- 4 pts
  Valid, complete, and correct argument. In addition, had some out of the box reasoning, and also quoted some additional details to support arguments.

Any other feedback you have for the learner in terms of the quality, completeness, or correctness of the response?

PROMPT

Harold is pretty impressed by your response and has approved all of your recommendations in previous two responses. He then re-iterated the key criteria for success and asked you if he and his management team should expect anything different from this project in terms for tracking and status updates.

Are there any project constraints laid out in the case study that need to be changed/managed since you will be using agile and, in agile, planning, estimation and tracking happens differently?

Hint: The case study implies certain project constraints/expectations around cost, timeline, other factors that need to managed/changed.

Since the team is using Agile, the requirements are prone to change over time since agile accepts changes as the project goes on. Time is also bound to change since it is the developers who would accurately estimate the time taken to complete a given iteration. The costs could also be revised downwards since Agile methodology is not as expensive as waterfall since its less risky.

RUBRIC

Did the learner identify that agile approaches to estimation, planning and tracking are different, so management should expect to engage with the team differently?

- 0 pts
  Didn't identify this.
- 2 pts
  Identified the need but didn't give correct arguments like (multi-level planning, less upfront but frequent, just in time, just enough, etc)
- 4 pts
  Identified the need and gave the correct argument.
- 5 pts
  Identified the need, gave the correct argument, and suggested a potential solution and additional details.

Did the learner specify that the initial cost and time estimates ($500,000 and 6 months, respectively) will need to be flexible to allow the team to change the plan based on what we learn?

- 0 pts
  The learner didn't identify this.
- 2 pts
  Identified the need but didn't give correct arguments like adapt and replan, embrace change.
- 4 pts
  Identified the need and gave the correct argument
- 5 pts
  Identified the need, gave the correct argument, and suggested a potential solution and additional details

Did the learner specify that Harold and his leadership team must engage more frequently and attend sprint review meetings? If they need to get a feel for the project, they can always attend the stand-ups.

- 0 pts
  The learner didn't identify this.
- 4 pts
  Identified the need.
- 5 pts
  Identified the need and provided additional details.

Rate the overall quality of the response.

- 0 pts
  Invalid arguments.
- 1 pt
  Valid arguments, but they are incomplete.
- 2 pts
  Valid, complete argument, but some of the supporting details are incorrect.
- 3 pts
  Valid arguments, covered all aspects, and very convincing.
- 4 pts
  Valid, complete, and correct argument. In addition, the learner had some out of the box reasoning, and also quoted some additional details to support arguments.

Any other feedback you have for the learner in terms of the quality, completeness, or correctness of the response?

Submit Review

Comments

Comments left for the learner are visible only to that learner and the person who left the comment.

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