Peer-graded Assignment: Applying the Agile Mindset and Techniques

Reviews 4 complete

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Well done! You sent 4 peers feedback that will help them. If you have time, please review one or two more. Every review you do helps another peer complete the course!

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's Innovative Remote Cheque Deposit Capture

by Anonymous Learner
April 13, 2022

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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.

The agile methodology approach would be the most efficient project management method to deliver the innovative cheque deposit capture system Blue Bank wish to implement. It would not only allow the project team to deliver a demonstration of the current state of the solution at the end of every sprint, but also invite you and your team to come to the retrospective meeting and test the demo's and input any changes and ideas you want to the project team directly. Furthermore, since you wish to have a new mobile app, a new browser input and changes to Blue Bank's internet portal, using agile will allow for prioritisation of key parts of these three high-level objectives and allow for them to be built by different teams concurrently and in collaboration with eachother. Agile would also allow for changes to be made fast within the range of two week sprints and would be more accomdating to change than the waterfall methodology.

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.

1. The team will need to interact more horizontally and with eachother. This means constant collaboration and sharing of ideas, instead of working alone in the office on different floors. We would suggest moving to the same floor to increase collaboration. The key stakeholders would also need to be involved with all steps of the project, providing feedback, input and recommendations to the project team. The leaders will need to interact with staff more for this project to be of the highest success.

2. The team and I would need training in mobile development, performance testing and user experience training. However, much of this can be done during sprint times to allow for a more efficient and cheaper overall project. Also a short session on key agile processes such as automated testing and continuous integration will be very useful to the team.

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. The solution included details like setting sessions to discover user needs, 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.

By implementing agile, one must note that the timeframe will be need to altered fortnightly in order to accommodate for the changes at the end discovered in the two week sprint retrospective meetings. We, of course will use financial planning to stick to the budget as best as possible, but it must be noted that during agile, changes occur frequently which are welcomed but can sometimes drive up the overall cost of the project. By managing this budget and the processes we use, we aim to sick within the estimates given prior.

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?

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Comments

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