Problems From Chapter Seven

Ch 7, #1: Why is it better to find defects earlier rather than later in the product development cycle?

When defects are detected during the earlier phase of the product development, it helps the developers to find the bugs and fix it easily as the code is fresh on their minds. So, if the developers test the product for bugs very soon then it will help them find the bugs easily than later when other member or the developer themselves look at the code.

Ch 7, #3: How does test-driven development improve code quality?

During the early phase, the parts of the product will be separate (before coming together as a product). Test driven development means, the developers test the code side by side as they develop the code. So, the bugs when detected at early phase will help to avoid the defects that happen at later time when all parts come together.

Ch 7, #5: What is the benefit of decoupling code?

Decoupling code helps to reduce the number of changes that are required if usage of a different module is required

Ch 7, #6: What risk may you encounter when doing regression testing?

The risk of regression testing is that the test may take longer time and may reduce the agile velocity

Ch 7, #9: What is the difference between acceptance and system testing?

The important difference between acceptance and system testing is that, in acceptance the tests are done in micro units, i.e, the tests will be done in a unit-wise manner, whereas in a System testing, the tests are done on a full, running system instead of just parts.

Ch 7, #11: How is customer testing different in Agile development environments?

In agile development environments, more importance is provided to customers to become closely involved with the product development team to test the product (alpha/beta) than to just focus on the terms and conditions of the project.

Ch 8, #1: How is Kanban different from the other Agile methodologies, specifically Scrum?

- Kanban is specifically a way to visualize and manage workflow and embodies “just-in-time” development. The other agile methodologies, especially scrum are more focused on organizational approaches to project development. A key difference between scrum and Kanban is that there are no iterations in Kanban. The work is “pulled” through the system and is not when there is no immediate need. Iterations are prohibited and considered unnecessary.

Ch 8, #2: What do the columns on a typical Kanban board represent?

- Typically, a Kanban board has three columns, each representing tasks “To Do”, “in progress”, or “done”.

Ch 8, #6: What are information radiators, and how do they help Agile teams?

- Information radiators refers to any variety of display that is put in highly visible locations so all team members can see updated information quickly.

Ch 8, #7: What is the difference between a burn-up chart and a burn-down chart?

- A burn chart is used by project managers to communicate the progress of the project. A burn-up chart illustrates how much work has been completed, while a burn-down chart shows how much work is left to do.

Ch 8, #13: What does the daily stand-up meeting provide to the team beyond simply giving status?

- Besides updates, these meetings give the scrum master a chance to bring things back on track and solve any issues before starting on today’s work. Each team member reflects on the work they did yesterday, the planned work for today and the roadblocks that are hindering progress.

Ch 8, #15: Why is it important for a team to hold a retrospective session?

- In scrum methodology, it is important to have retrospective sessions at the end of each sprint to give the team a set time and place to reflect on what went well, what didn’t, and what needs to be fixed for the next sprint. This helps to keep the fast-paced nature of the project development intentional and organized. It allows for continuous improvement of the process so the team and its performance can improve over time.

Ch 8, #16: What is the best indicator of success in Agile?

- The top indicators of measuring success in Agile are the following:

o Speed - measure the teams productivity using velocity.

o Quality – measure the number of defects from a team.

o Schedule – measure predictable ability to meet deadlines.

o Sustainability – measure employee satisfaction.

Ch 8, #18: If the daily stand-up meeting allows you to assess the effectiveness of the sprint and the Sprint demo allows you to assess the effectiveness of the product, what are you assessing in the Sprint retrospective?

- The sprint retrospective assesses the effectiveness of how the team itself worked. It addresses what the team should stop or start doing or continue doing for the next sprint.

Ch 8, #19: How is stakeholder feedback collected in the Sprint review, and what is done with that feedback?

- A sprint review includes a description of the user stories that have been implemented and a demo of the working software. The customer themselves are usually the ones performing the demo which allows them to see the operation and provide feedback while the software is being used. If the feedback is negative the team decides whether to release that version or not, if the feedback is positive, the new features are validated and can be ready for deployment.

Problems From Chapter Nine

Ch 9, #6: What is an example of a product differentiator for frozen pizza?

- The time necessary for the pizza to cook in the oven

Ch 9, #8: Should developers participate in focus groups? Why or why not?

- A focus group in software development is a small group of individuals, within their pre-established target market, tasked to critically review the software. These focus groups are one of the best means for validating whether the software solves the problem that was trying to be fixed. The software was built based on user stories that have created based on market demand, human behaviors, etc. To make sure the software achieves its purpose, there needs to be real users involved, otherwise the only people testing and validating it are the developers that know exactly what is going on.

Ch 9, #9: When Agile development efforts are committed to the marketplace through marketing and sales, how can the development team maintain flexibility?

- If the development team produces only the minimum viable product, they can launch it into market so they can get it to consumers early and still have enough flexibility to see market reactions and adapt their software to it.

Ch 9, #12: How does a working agreement influence teamwork?

- Team working agreements reduces friction between team members. It provides each team member a template for what is expected and what is not expected. It solidifies a sense of purpose and alignment when the team encounters challenges.

Ch 9, #14: What are some examples of silos in the marketing organization?

- Marketing channels: silo marketing helps keep the marketing channels separate so that each one has its own message and strategy for message delivery. There might be separation of marketing departments based on the specific marketing channel. They all compete for consumers’ attention.

Ch 9, #17: Are there any departments or institutions that would not benefit from Agile? Please explain your answer.

- Some strictly regulated organizations typically develop their products within an already existing, verified model. If the organization has detailed, well0defined specifications that needs you need to comply with and there are no foreseeable scope changes, then waterfall methodology would be better. Agile is better when you have an understanding of the end result but are not sure and expect a lot of changes.

Ch 9, #19: Since the Agile principles are easy to understand, does that mean they are easy to implement? Please explain your answer.

- Agile methodologies can be very challenging to implement. Based on Question #17, sometimes an institution can be resistant to an agile approach. Both the development team and the management team need to be very close and cooperative for an agile approach to work. If the development team is agile, but the management is resistant to invest time and effort into daily communication and regular feedback, then it will not work. For the company to become successful, it needs to adjust its culture to become agile. Agile is a mindset for business operation. It is not simply some tools that are used to develop a project. Each employee needs to have an agile mentality which can be difficult to create.