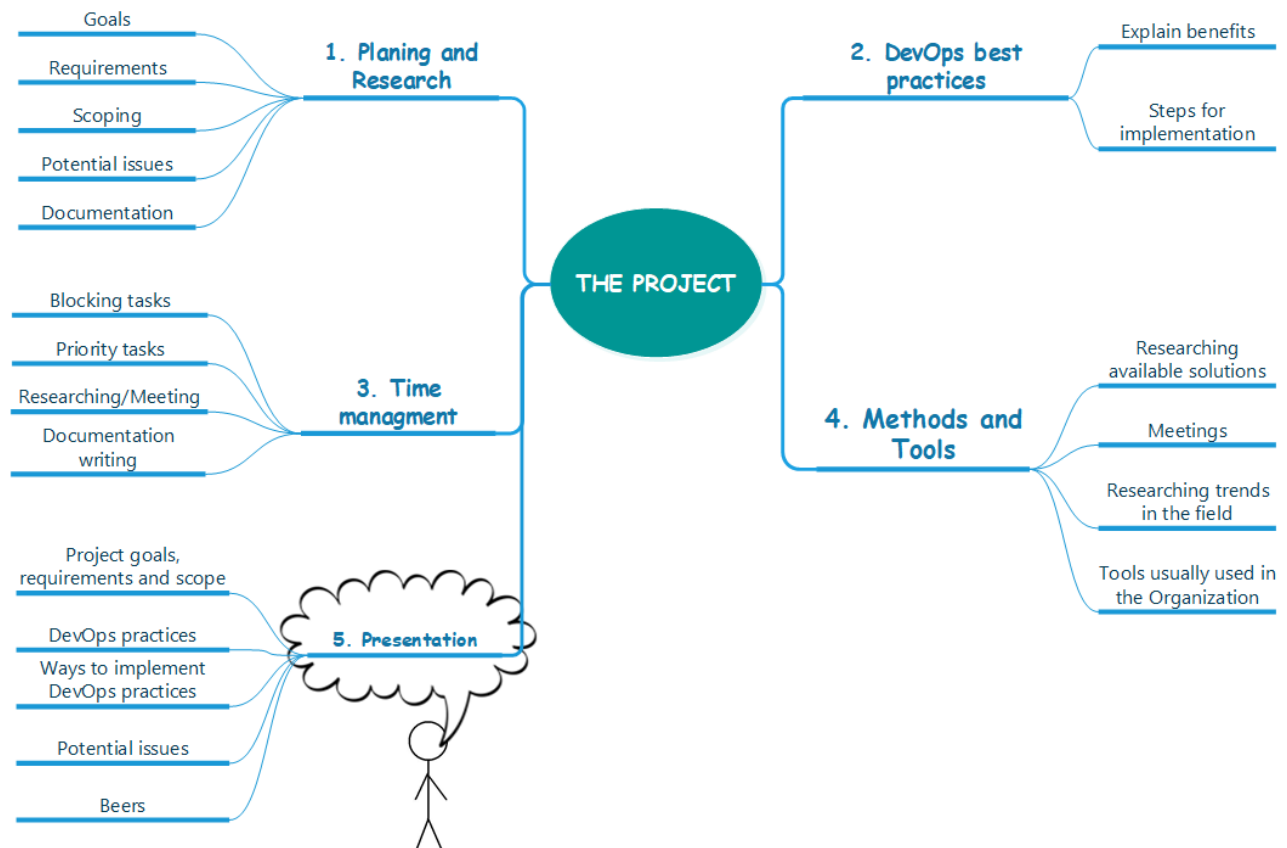Exercise: DevOps Planning & Research

You are starting as a Junior DevOps in a IT Company. You get assigned to a new Project that develops software solutions for Banking systems. Currently, you are single devoted DevOps engineer on that project with mixed team members (Devs, QA, PM's etc). Before the Kick-off of the Project, you are given the task to plan and research the best practices for the project.

1. Explain what steps you are taking for planning and research?

- Goals – understand the what is the purpose of the project what does the client want?

- Requirements – understand what is required from the team to deliver the project – on prem/cloud hosting, scale, security, monitoring, compliance, long term support etc.

- Scoping – based on the requirements, scope the needed Devops work - tools, technologies, deadlines.

- Potential issues – try to identify early potential issues – lack of people, lack of expertise in certain areas or tools and how to resolve those issues.

- Documentation – take notes, document steps.

2. How would you describe the process for DevOps best practices to your colleagues?

- Explain benefits – get people onboard, that this is a positive thing and it will help project.

- Steps for implementation – do the steps for implementing best practices

3. How would you organize your time for planning and research?

- Priority/Blocking tasks – tasks that have an urgency attached to them or are blocking someone from the team e.g., a developer is waiting for me (and doesn't have any other tasks) to finish research on some cloud service, so that he can code a demo to evaluate.

- Meetings – short and concise

- Researching – finding information that will be useful for the project

- Document writing

4. What methods and tools are you using during this process?

- Researching available solutions – see if there is a similar project on the market and if there are documentations. Check if someone from the company has done something similar

- Meetings – meet with stakeholders, project managers, industry experts (if possible) etc. Everyone that can have valuable information or insights related to the project

- Trends in the field – trying to understand the field as best and possible and try to futureproof the project

- Tools – usually tools that are widely used in the organization – Confluence, Jira, MS office suite.

5. Describe the short (imagined) presentation of your research and planning, for your team briefly:

- Project goals, requirements, and scope – explain in brief what is this project

- DevOps practices – explain what practices we are using

- Ways to implement DevOps practices – explain how you plan to implement said practices

- Potential issues – things that might go wrong and a contingency plan

- Beers – self-explanatory