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⌚ Assessment duration: 20mins

⌚ Time spent: 13mins

80%

Candidate Score: 16/20

Category Performance

Foundational Communication Concepts **100%**

5/5

Pyramid Principle Application **66%**

4/6

Gricean Maxims **66%**

6/9



Top Strengths

Pyramid Principle Fundamentals

Shows strong understanding of the core rule and purpose of the Pyramid Principle in structuring professional communication.

Communication Irreversibility

Understands that communication, once delivered, cannot be fully undone, emphasizing the importance of careful messaging.

Communication as Understanding

Recognizes that effective communication goes beyond mere transmission and requires mutual understanding between sender and receiver.

Maxim of Manner (Clarity & Order)

Demonstrates a good grasp of the importance of clarity, brevity, and orderliness in communication, aligning with Grice's Maxim of Manner.

Purpose of Professional Communication

Understands the fundamental goals of professional communication: to inform and to persuade.



Areas for Improvement

Pyramid Principle - Structured Response

Practice formulating direct answers followed by supporting reasons, rather than leading with the reasons.

Gricean Maxim of Quality

Focus on providing certain and evidence-backed statements, avoiding vague or speculative language in professional contexts.

Gricean Maxim of Quantity (Appropriate Detail)

Review the Maxim of Quantity to understand the balance between providing sufficient information and avoiding unnecessary detail or complexity.

Pyramid Principle - Starting with the Answer

Practice rephrasing emails and reports to begin with the main request or conclusion, followed by context.

Communication Noise Identification

Focus on identifying barriers to understanding, such as jargon, as a form of noise that hinders effective communication.

Development Recommendations

Pyramid Principle - Structured Response

Practice constructing 'answer-first' responses to common professional queries, ensuring the main point is immediately clear.

Example: Instead of 'The project is delayed because X, Y, Z...', say 'The project is delayed by two days due to X.'

Suggested Resources:

- Minto Pyramid Principle: Logic in Writing, Thinking & Problem Solving by Barbara Minto
- Online tutorials on 'executive summaries' and 'answer-first communication'.

Gricean Maxim of Quality

Develop a habit of verifying information and stating facts with certainty, avoiding vague or speculative language.

Example: Instead of 'This function is probably broken,' say 'This function is failing tests X and Y, indicating a bug.'

Suggested Resources:

- Gricean Maxim of Quality
- Gricean Maxim of Quantity (Appropriate Detail)

Gricean Maxim of Quantity (Appropriate Detail)

Learn to tailor the amount of information provided to the audience's needs, avoiding both excessive detail and insufficient information.

Example: When explaining a simple algorithm, focus on its purpose and outcome for a non-technical audience, rather than intricate code details.

Suggested Resources:

- Communication Noise Identification

Priority Learning Areas

Pyramid Principle - Structured Response

Crucial for effective communication, especially with senior stakeholders, to ensure messages are clear, concise, and impactful.

Gricean Maxim of Quality

Essential for building trust and credibility in professional settings by ensuring all statements are truthful and supported.

Gricean Maxim of Quantity (Appropriate Detail)

Important for efficient communication, preventing information overload or undersupply, and tailoring messages to the audience.

Suggested Learning Path

Week 1-2: Critical

- Pyramid Principle - Structured Response
- Pyramid Principle - Starting with the Answer

Week 3-4: Important

- Gricean Maxim of Quality
- Gricean Maxim of Quantity (Appropriate Detail)

Week 5-6: Enhancement

- Communication Noise Identification