

Messenger

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Secrets of Passing the PMP® Certification Exam the First Time

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The PMP® (Project Management Professional) certification is an international certification under the guidance of The Project Management Institute (PMI®). This credential is designed to allow project managers the opportunity to demonstrate their expertise and understanding of project methodology and processes through a comprehensive international test.

The PMP® certification verifies that a project manager has demonstrated comprehensive study in researching and understanding the various theories and models of project management and how they can be used within any organization or industry. By using these theories and models, project managers reduce the possibility the project will fail, be hindered, or run over budget and schedule.



The PMP® certification exam is based upon the principles found in *A Guide to Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK®)*. While this exam is very intense, with thorough preparation, you will be able to pass. However, some people choose not to give the exam the proper prep time. Listed below are 10 Avoidable Reasons Why People Fail.

1. Participants did not take the test seriously.

The PMP® certification is extremely hard and difficult. Most participants consider it to be one of the hardest tests they have ever taken. Even though this is emphasized in boot camps, there are always those individuals who think that this must be an overstatement of the test. Make sure you do adequate preparation before taking the PMP® certification test.

2. Organizations do not use PMI® processes in real life. Using PMBOK® and PMI® processes at your organization gives you an advantage in understanding how the process is integrated and how projects should run effectively. When organizations follow PMBOK® processes, you already have 20 to 30% of the knowledge needed to answer many of the questions which will be on the test.

3. Inadequate preparation.

Participants who have been extremely fortunate in academic circles will struggle with the PMP® certification. Many will attempt to take the test the first time with the assumption that they will be able to distinguish the correct answer since it is a multiple-choice test. What they fail to understand is that this multiple-choice test normally has two possible answers. PMI® desires for their certified project managers to be able to know the difference in those answers and pick the better of the two.

4. Not reading the question in detail or understanding what is being asked.

Taking a multiple-choice test is somewhat different than other testing methods. This test will give you a scenario and ask for a response. This means that each participant must fully understand exactly what is being asked of them prior to responding. One of the best ways to handle this is to read the question three times prior to answering it. Each

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Decide what you want, decide what you are willing to exchange for it. Establish your priorities and go to work.
H.L. Hunt

The Mathis Group's Messenger

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time ask yourself, “What do they want to know?” Do not make assumptions or speed through the questions.

5. *Not prepared for the testing environment.*

The testing environment surrounding the certification can be very intimidating to those who have not attempted other certifications. The testing site will have 15 to 20 people taking a test at the same time. You will sign in and show identification. While you take the test, video cameras are watching your every move. If you are not prepared for this it can be extremely daunting. Some participants have even said they felt so much pressure due to the environment that they got nervous and missed several questions.

6. *Participants fail to be in the test taking mindset.*

Being prepared for the test and knowing the material is extremely important. In addition, each participant needs to be primed and ready for an intense experience during the certification test. This means that you will have already studied the needed material. You must walk in with a positive mindset that you can pass this test and are planning on giving 110% toward that goal.

7. *Participants did not create a progressive study plan.*

To prepare for the PMP® certification, it requires making sure you not only study but you study the correct material. Most individuals have indicated that a study plan connected to various topics and definitions is helpful. In addition, the study plan should include practice tests that are similar to the PMP® certification. Unless you are willing to include tests in association with the studying, it is unlikely you will be fully prepared on test day.

8. *Participants study the wrong material.*

There is a great deal of material floating around about how to pass the PMP® certification. Some websites will give you 200 questions for free and numerous hand-outs to assist you in your study preparation. The only problem is that some of that material is absolutely wrong. Some questions which are still on the websites are from older editions of PMBOK®. Also, some of the so-called advice is contrary to what PMI® tells you about the certification itself.

9. *Waiting too long between the boot camp and taking the test.*

One of the best things you can do is to be ready to take the exam as soon as possible after completing a boot camp.

However, there are many boot camps which encourage you to take 30 days to study. This makes no sense to me. If a boot camp is created to prepare people for the PMP® certification, then they need to be ready to take the test soon afterwards.

10. *Allowing anxiety and nervousness to control and dominate them during the test.*

It is understandable for you to be nervous when taking an international certification test. This is common to everyone; however, it is important not to allow your nerves and anxiety to become uncontrollable during the test. You must be able to control yourself and your nerves or you will not be able to think correctly and answer the questions accordingly.

The PMP® certification is an extremely beneficial credential to possess. To read Dr. Mathis' complete article *Secrets of Passing the Project Management Professional Certification Exam the First time* please visit the Free Articles and Reports section in our website at www.themathisgroup.com.



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