

APM Project Management Qualification – new for 2024

2023 pilot

- 304 candidates representing a range of professional sectors.
- Included neurodiverse candidates and those with English as a second language.
- 10 training providers.
- 3 papers testing 5 question formats.
- Each paper included a different length of break time – 15 mins, 30 mins, up to 1 hr.
- 90 marks available.

Pilot feedback

Feedback was collected via a survey and 4 consultation groups: 3 groups with students and one with training providers.

Survey

- 70% found the pilot experience to be positive.
- Multiple response questions most favourably received.
- 61% felt they had enough time to complete the exam.

Candidate consultation groups

- It felt more like application of knowledge rather than a memory test.
- More manageable and more adapted to different types of learning.
- Felt better after completing this exam, not mentally drained like the current version.

Training provider consultation group

- Handbook well received.
- Sustainability and DEIB well received by candidates.
- Content fitted into 5 days and was more engaging to deliver.
- Like the discovery approach and active learning.

Pilot candidate quotes

“The new pilot exam offered the opportunity to test the knowledge with a range of different techniques, I welcome this as I believe it makes it fairer by catering to people’s different strengths.”

“This qualification has given me more confidence in my ability to say I can take the ownership going forward and know I will deliver a good project.”

“The learning experience running up to this exam is very interesting and has added to my skillset. The new format of the PMQ is certainly a better format and better structured.”

“I have previously sat the BoK7 PMQ and found that this version was a much better assessment of knowledge. It was also more accessible; I have mobility issues in one hand from an accident 15+ years ago that restricts my typing speed - not enough to be an issue day to day but proved a significant issue to the previous PMQ.”

New exam information

- Now aligned to the *APM Competence Framework*.
- 2.5 hours exam time, with an optional break of up to 30 minutes.
- 40 questions, which must all be answered, in four different formats. Content will not be specific to any one question format.
- Total marks available = 90.
- Pass mark will vary by paper, to ensure that the difficulty of questions is taken into account.

x 1 mark each

**20 multiple response
questions**

x 5 marks each

**10 long response
questions**

x 2 marks each

**5 select from list
questions**

x 2 marks each

**5 short response
questions**

New syllabus

The new syllabus covers largely the same content as the current version of the qualification but there are some notable omissions and additions. All of the changes have been guided by advice from assessment experts such as Cambridge Assessment, the *APM Competence Framework 3rd edition* and consultation with training providers, corporate partners and project professionals (past, present and future candidates).

What content is new and notable?

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Sustainability.
- Ethics, Compliance and Professionalism.
- Transition Management.

What else is different?

- Alignment to the *APM Competence Framework*.
- The way in which we use command verbs – only used to tell a candidate how to answer a question.

Context

- The qualification will still be levelled at SCQF level 7.
- Candidates should have 2-3 years' experience as a project professional or undertaking a project management degree/ apprenticeship.

Training provider resources

Supplied to all APM Project Management Qualification accredited training providers.

- Supplementary materials designed to support training provider content. Use is not compulsory.
- Slides for each competence covering all learning outcomes.
- To include guided learning activities, case studies, and supplementary reading.
- Available to download in Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.
- Cross links with the Learner Study Pack.

Learner Study Pack

Available to purchase in printed or digital format

- Easy to follow supplementary content to support candidates studying for the exam.
- Each competence area will include learning outcomes, key points to note, reading references, case study scenarios, and exam practice questions.
- Cross links with the training provider content.
- Will be available to purchase late Jul/early Aug.

Next steps and more info



<https://www.apm.org.uk/campaign/new-apm-project-management-qualification>