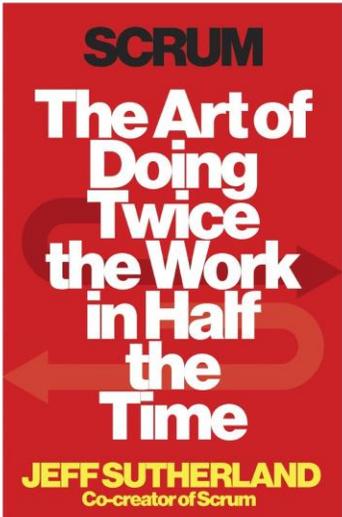
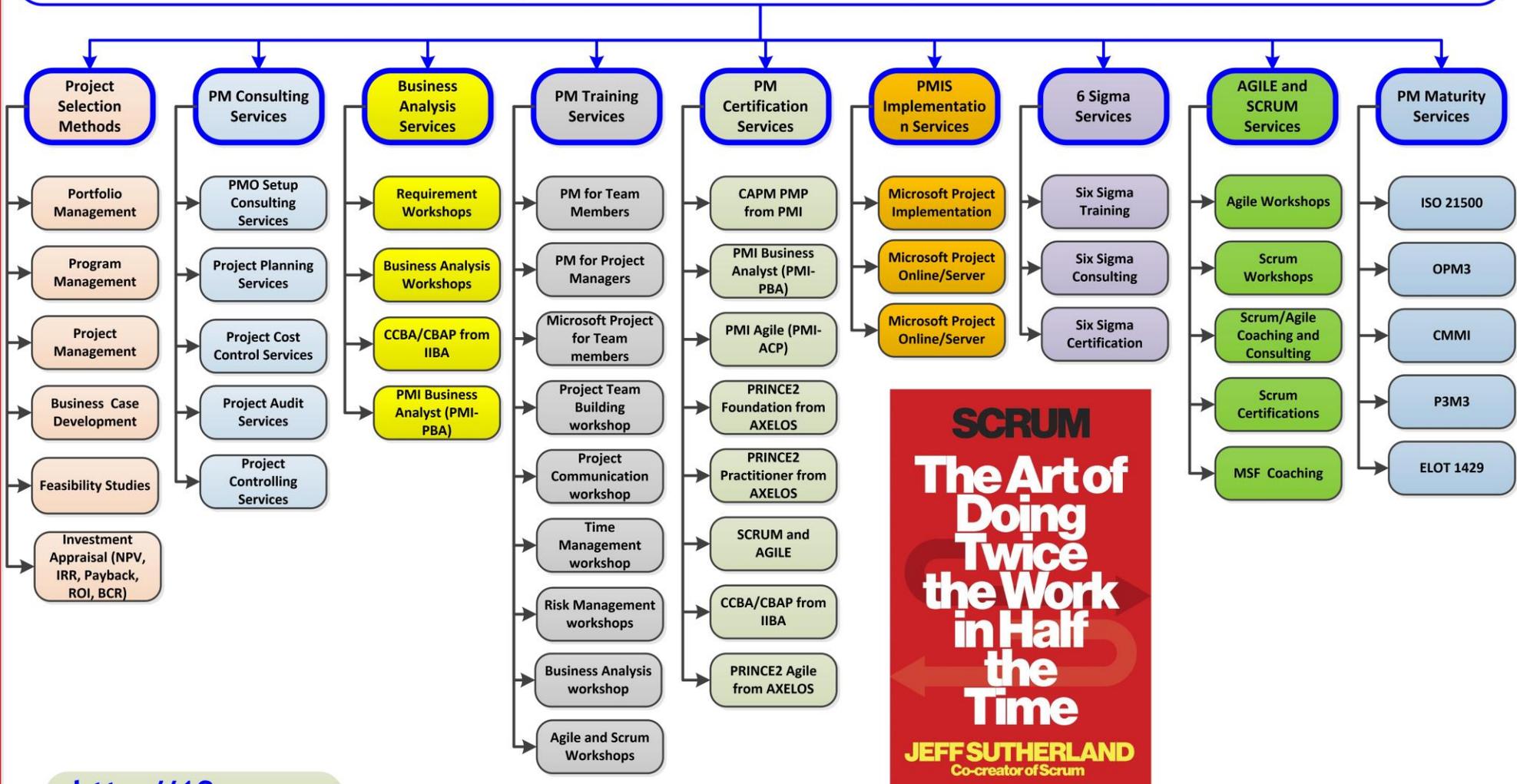


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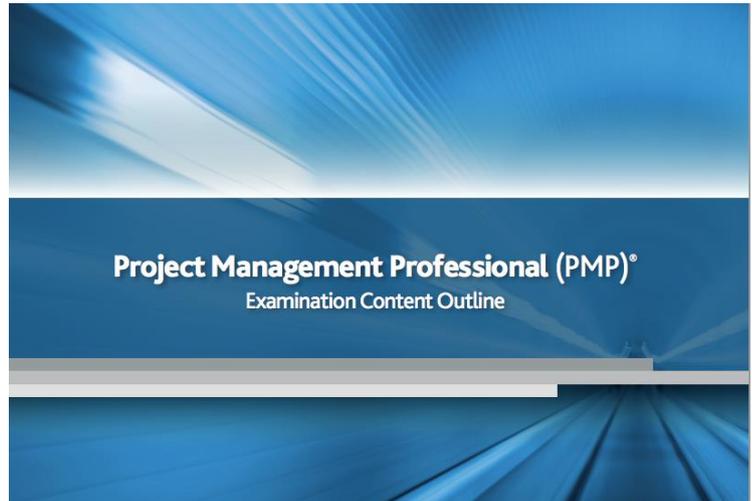


# PMP Exam Changes Jan. 2015

*UPDATE: The PMP exam update has been postponed till **January 11th, 2016** to allow all examinees adequate time to prepare for the change. See the full announcement on the [PMI website](#).*

Those aspiring to get their Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, take note: there will be changes to the PMP examination which will go into effect this November 2015.

So if you're studying for the PMP exam with older material (i.e. the Exam Content Outline dated August 2011), you have until November 1st to use those materials and take the exam. After that date, the new PMP exam will be instated and you'll have to upgrade to the new Exam Content Outline ([dated June 2015](#)).



## Why is the PMP Exam Changing?

The PMP exam is being updated because the role of the project manager continues to evolve. The exam is meant to reflect current practices.

In fact, certification exams are updated every three to five years to ensure they stay relevant for project managers. To update exams, a Role Delineation Study (RDS) is undertaken to examine the role of the project manager and distill it down to key competency areas, such as domains, tasks, knowledge, and skills. The research done in the RDS is then validated by the larger PM community.

## What Was Updated?

Here's a quick rundown:

- Overall, there are minor changes to terminology and language within many tasks. While the essence of these tasks remains the same, the language has been modified to fit current practice in the industry.
- A few tasks were removed from the prior version of the Exam Content Outline. Because they were dropped, the new PMP exam will not include related questions.
- The 5 domain areas remain the same, but there are shifts in how each area is weighted, meaning a corresponding change in the number of questions pertaining to each domain. For example: Domain 3 "Executing" has increased to 31%; this means there will be more questions on domain 3 than the previous version of the exam.
- The biggest change is the introduction of **eight new tasks** to the Exam Content Outline. **See the chart below.** Domain 1 has three new tasks (Task 2, 7 and 8), Domain 2 has one new task (Task 13), Domain 3 has two new tasks (Task 6 and 7), and Domain 4 has two new tasks (Task 6 and 7).

Domain 1: Initiating 13%	Domain 2: Planning 24%	Domain 3: Executing 31%	Domain 4: Monitoring/ Controlling 25%	Domain 5: Closing 7%
Task 2	Task 13	Task 6	Task 6	N/A
Task 7		Task 7	Task 7	
Task 8				

## ***Why Were These Changes Made?***

### **1. To Focus More on Business Benefits & Benefits Realization**

There is an increased focus on business benefits, strategy, and benefits realization. This is because project managers are now being brought in at the earliest stages of projects when benefits analysis is conducted. Today's PMs often need ensure that the project focuses on business benefits rather than just delivering on time.

### **2. To Ensure Lessons are Learned Throughout the Project Lifecycle**

Another topic with added emphasis is lessons learned. Traditionally, PMs only discuss lessons learned during the initiation phase (lessons learned from past projects) and then again during the closing phase (lessons learned on this project). The focus is now on gleaned lessons learned throughout the entire project lifecycle.

### **3. To Reflect Who Really Creates the Project Charter**

The consensus now is that it's typically NOT the project manager who is solely responsible for creating the project charter. Instead, it's the sponsor or customer who creates and approves the project charter, while the PM acts as a contributor to its development and informs team members and other stakeholders about its contents. Parts of the exam were changed to reflect this shift.

### **4. To Underscore the Importance of Stakeholder Relationships**

Everyone now agrees that project managers build two-way relationships with stakeholders, instead of simply sending one-way communications and updates. The exam changes now place a greater emphasis on managing and engaging stakeholder relationships to effectively complete a project.

## ***What These Changes Mean Overall for the PMP Exam***

Expect to see 25% of the exam content cover new topic areas from those 8 added tasks. Also, expect a large percentage of the rest of the exam questions to be new and updated.

Some things are not changing. The eligibility requirements remain the same: every PMP candidate needs to have 4,500 to 7,500 hours of experience in leading and managing projects, and should also have a total of 35 hours of formal project management education.

The overall structure also remains the same. The PMP exam will still be made up of 200 multiple choice, scenario-based questions.

## **How Are These Changes Affecting You?**

Are you taking the PMP exam soon? We'd like to hear how these changes are affecting your exam preparations. Are you already a PMP? What do you think of these changes? Drop us a comment below.

**To view all the changes in detail, DOWNLOAD the latest [Exam Content Outline \(June 2015\)](#).**

Ref: <https://www.wrike.com/blog/whats-changing-on-the-pmp-examination-this-november-2015/>