

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What is a RDS and why are we doing it? How often do we perform a RDS?

- A.** A Role Delineation Study (RDS) is a research study that examines the specific tasks of a project management professional, as well as identifying the knowledge/skills required to perform those tasks competently. As a result of the study, examination content and qualification criteria may be updated to reflect the current status of the profession.

An initial RDS is conducted in order to establish the content coverage of a new examination. Typically, organizations conduct update studies every 3 to 5 years, although groups may conduct these studies more or less frequently, depending on the rate of change in a profession. Updated studies ensure that the examination continues to assess what is most relevant to practice as the profession evolves over time.

The role delineation and examination specification initiatives performed were designed in accordance with all testing industry standards and meet internationally recognized criteria (i.e., AERA, APA, NCME, 2014; ISO/IEC 17024, 2012; NCCA, 2014), and were carried out by Professional Examination Services (ProExam), a recognized expert in the development, implementation, and evaluation of credentialing programs, including the conduct of role delineation studies and in the development of validated test specifications on which to base credentialing program activities.

Q2. When will the changes to the PMP examination take place?

- A.** The last day to test under the current version of the PMP exam is 1 November 2015. After this date, the PMP will reflect the new exam content outline.

Q3. How am I affected as a candidate?

- A.** As a PMP candidate, the only factors you need to be mindful of are the date of the exam change and the updates to the exam content. All other elements of the application and testing process remain the same. If you do not want to test under the new version of the PMP exam, you must test on or before 1 November 2015. After 1 November 2015, all PMP exams administered, including retakes and language aids, will reflect the new exam content outline.

Q4. Are the eligibility criteria changing?

- A.** No, the education and experience eligibility requirements for the PMP certification will not change.

Q5. Will the exam content be changing?

- A.** Yes, the content of the PMP exam will be changing. The five domains of practice for the PMP have not changed but the underlying tasks within those domains have changed in some instances. Some tasks have experienced slight modification while other tasks were changed or deleted entirely. There are also a few tasks that have been newly added as well. Please refer the new PMP Exam Content Outline for complete details.

Q6. Will the exam report be changing?

- A.** No, the exam report for the PMP will not change. For computer based testing (CBT) candidates, you will continue to receive an exam report immediately after testing both before and after 1 November 2015.

Q7. Will the scoring method be changing?

- A.** At this time, PMI does not anticipate that any changes will be made to the scoring method for the PMP exam.

Q8. What are the major differences to the role of project management professional that were identified by the new study?

- A.** This most recent RDS confirmed that the role of project management professional has remained fairly consistent over the past few years. However, there are aspects of the role that have evolved. Some of these areas include:
- Inclusion of benefits analysis and realization
 - Looking at risk management in terms of opportunity
 - Placing more emphasis on stakeholder management plans and communications
 - Additional focus on lessons learned

Q9. Why is there no pilot period with a rebate offer for the new PMP exam change?

- A.** Traditionally during pilot periods, candidates will test under the new version of an exam and will not receive an exam report immediately after testing. These pilot candidates will wait several weeks for their exam results while information is gathered on the new exam. It is for this reason that a rebate offer is provided.

Due to the volume of PMP testing, PMI does not need to have a separate pilot testing period for the release of this new exam. To avoid inconveniencing our candidates, we will collect data on any new test items through standard delivery activities. By doing so we can ensure that PMP candidates will receive their exam reports immediately after testing for computer based testing or soon after taking a paper based option.

Q10. Will PMI Chapters and Registered Education Providers (R.E.P.s) be informed about this change and will they be teaching courses based on the current exam or the new exam version?

- A.** PMI Chapters and R.E.P.s have been informed of this change to the PMP exam and should be updating their courses accordingly. If you are interested in taking a PMP course with a Chapter or R.E.P., please contact it directly to confirm the content of a course and how it aligns to the current or new version of the PMP Exam Content Outline.

Q11. Will I need to take another prep course since the exam is being updated?

- A.** The content of the PMP exam will remain the same through 1 November 2015. If you have a test appointment scheduled after 1 November 2015, you are encouraged to compare the training outline or curriculum map with the new *PMP Exam Content Outline* to decide if additional training is necessary.