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General PRINCE2® Overview

- **What is PRINCE2®?**
- **Why use PRINCE2®?**
- **Who has implemented PRINCE2®?**
- **Is PRINCE2® easy to tailor?**
- **What are the key elements of a PRINCE2® project?**
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What is PRINCE2®?

PRINCE2®, **Projects In Controlled Environments**, is a widely used project management method, which navigates you through all the essentials for running a successful project. Since its introduction in 1989 as a government standard for IT project management, PRINCE2® has been taken on by both the public and private sectors and is now recognised as a de facto standard for project management.

PRINCE2® is a flexible method and although originally designed for the management of IT projects, is now aimed at all other types of project. PRINCE2® takes all the simple and obvious lessons learned by thousands of professionals in the past 20-odd years and presents them in a checklist for present clients, managers and their teams. OGC (Office of Government Commerce) own the methodology.

The APM Group (APMG) is the Certification Body and is responsible for the running of examinations and accreditation of training organisations (ATOs), trainers, consulting organisations (ACOs) and consultants. APMG have received UKAS accreditation in accordance with EN45011 and ISO17024 for our certification activities of Practitioners, ATOs, Trainers, ACOs and Consultants.

As PRINCE2® is a very successful project management qualification, a large number of people and organisations have used and implemented PRINCE2®. A number of case studies have been commissioned as examples of how successful PRINCE2® has become within their organisations.

Why use PRINCE2®?

PRINCE2® takes all the lessons learned by many professionals in the past 20 years and presents them in a checklist for present clients, managers and their teams.

Who has implemented PRINCE2®?

As PRINCE2® is a very successful project management qualification, a large number of people and organisations have used and implemented PRINCE2®. Since its introduction in 1989, PRINCE2® has become the de facto standard for project management in both the public and private sectors.

Thousands of UK professionals have successfully used PRINCE2® to create a standard and structured approach to their project management, running projects which are well-organised, well-planned and results-driven.

It is estimated that there are more than 300,000 certified practitioners and exams are undertaken in 57 countries.

Is PRINCE2® easy to tailor?

PRINCE2® is an easily-tailored solution, which can be used in any environment and divides projects into manageable stages. It ensures the efficient control and use of resources and regular process monitoring.

What are the key elements of a PRINCE2® project?

When used effectively, PRINCE2® training ensures that successful projects have:

- A planned, organised and controlled start, middle and end
- Regular reviews of progress against the plan and the business case
- Flexible decision points
- Automatic management control of deviations from the plan
- Stakeholder and management involvement at the right time and place
- Excellent communication channels between the project, project management and the rest of the organisation

What is the structure of the PRINCE2® Examinations?

The PRINCE2® Foundation examination is a one hour long, multiple choice paper of 75 questions. An overall score of 35 out of a possible 75 i.e. 50% is required to pass.

Once the Foundation examination has been taken and passed, a candidate may then take the PRINCE2® Practitioner examination to become a Registered PRINCE2® Practitioner.

The PRINCE2® Practitioner exam is a two and a half hour, objective testing examination. There are 9 questions, with a scenario background and appendices, each of the 9 questions is worth 12 marks an overall score of 59 out of a possible 108 is required to pass. This

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examination is open-book allowing only for the PRINCE2® Manual to be taken into the examination.

PRINCE2® Registered Practitioners must take the Re-registration examination every 3-5 years to maintain their registered status as a PRINCE2® Practitioner.

Results turnaround time for the PRINCE2® Examinations

Result turn-around time for the exams is roughly 2 to 3 weeks, with the Objective Testing Format. If you have taken your exam via an ATO, results are sent by APMG to that particular ATO.

Your ATO or ATO Affiliate will notify you of your results, so please contact them for further details regarding this. Certificate turn-around is usually two weeks after you have been notified of your result.

When will I receive my PRINCE2® Certificate?

A Foundation Certificate will be dispatched to you approximately 2 weeks after APMG-Australasia have received your exam paper back from your ATO, into our offices. The Practitioner Certificate will be dispatched 2 weeks after the Practitioner results have been released by APMG to the ATO.

Please note that if you have taken your examinations via an ATO; the certificates will be dispatched to the ATO. Therefore if you have not received your certificate in the above time frames, please contact the ATO or ATO Affiliate directly who can contact the APM Group on your behalf for a replacement.

Please note there may be a cost levied for replacement certificates.

Pass marks for the PRINCE2® 2009 examinations

Foundation Examination: You will need to score 35 /70 to pass the Foundation exam.

Practitioner Examination: You will need to score 59 / 108 to pass the Practitioner exam.

Statistics on PRINCE2® examinations

Foundation Examination: The overall pass rate for Foundation examinations is 97% (January – December 2008).

Practitioner Examination: The overall pass rate for Practitioner examinations is 91% (January – December 2008).

PRINCE2® 2009 Overview

- **Should I take PRINCE2® 2005 now or should wait for PRINCE2® 2009 to be released?**
- **Will my Foundation / Practitioner qualification still be valid upon PRINCE2® 2009 being released?**
- **What will the format of the new exams be?**
- **Will I still be able to take PRINCE2® 2005 exams after the PRINCE2® 2009 exams start?**
- **Will I be able to update my existing qualifications to PRINCE2® 2009?**
- **When will PRINCE2® 2005 exams be retired?**
- **Will my investment in PRINCE2® 2005 publications and training be lost?**
- **What is the difference between PRINCE2® 2005 and PRINCE2® 2009?**
- **PRINCE2® 2009 Methodology – What's New?**

Should I take PRINCE2® 2005 now or should wait for PRINCE2® 2009 to be released?

There are no major differences between the 2005 and 2009 versions of PRINCE2® – the methodology has been refreshed and not re-written, so we would recommend that you do not delay your training or exams until the 2009 version has been released.

Will my Foundation / Practitioner qualification still be valid upon PRINCE2® 2009 being released?

Yes – all certificates are valid for the registration period shown on them. After this period, re-registration and re-certification must be done.

What will the format of the new exams be?

Foundation Examination

- Multiple choice format
- 75 questions per paper
- 5 questions to be trial and not counted in scores
- 35 marks required (out of 70 available) to pass - 50%

Practitioner Examination

- Objective testing format
- 9 questions per paper with 12 marks available per question – all question items will be worth 1 mark, making the total number of marks available per paper 108
- 2.5 hours allowed (no reading time has been added)
- Open book exam (PRINCE2® manual only)
- 59 marks required (out of 108 available) to pass - 55%

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Will I still be able to take PRINCE2® 2005 exams after the PRINCE2® 2009 exams start?

From the 6th July 2009, examinations will be available based on both the 2005 and 2009 editions of the PRINCE2® manual.

Please note that the pass mark for the PRINCE2® Practitioner exam based on the 2005 edition of the manual will be changing from the 6th July 2009 to 55%, which is a total of 198/360.

Exams based on the 2005 edition of the manual will be available until 31st December 2009. Examinations taken from the 1st January 2010 will be based on the 2009 edition of the manual.

Will I be able to update my existing qualifications to PRINCE2® 2009?

It is expected that ATOs will run bridging courses to explain the differences between 2005 and 2009 though this is not an obligation for them. If a candidate wanted to re-take the exams on the 2009 version then they can if they wish to but they will have to re-sit the exam based on the new manual.

When will PRINCE2® 2005 exams be retired?

Exams based on the 2005 edition of the manual will be retired on the 31st December 2009. Examinations taken after this time will be based on the 2009 edition of the manual.

Will my investment in PRINCE2® 2005 publications and training be lost?

APMG does not expect that any investment in training on previous PRINCE2® versions will be lost, as it is still a valid and productive methodology for the management of projects. The refresh of the manual is exactly that, a refresh to update and make minor improvements to the methodology and not to re-write it so there is no danger of PRINCE2® 2005 being considered outdated or invalid.

Users of the PRINCE2® 2005 version, are under no obligation to update to the 2009 version, though of course, may do so if they wish to and so if the current 2005 edition system is working well for an individual or organisation at the moment they are under no pressure to change this.

The only time a candidate will be required to learn about PRINCE2® based on the 2009 edition, is if they wish to take the Re-Registration exam after the launch of the new manual.

What is the difference between PRINCE2® 2005 and PRINCE2® 2009?

There are incremental improvements rather than major changes. It now fits more neatly with other "best practice" methodologies such as MSP and ITIL and there has been simplification in some areas. A second manual has been introduced to give more guidance to those responsible for directing PRINCE2® projects.

PRINCE2® 2009 Methodology – What's New?

The "refresh" of PRINCE2® is part of a regular programme of review and updating which has been ongoing since PRINCE first emerged in the mid 1990s. An effort was made to distil those aspects of PRINCE2® which were perceived to be essential (e.g. the product based approach). Alongside this were considered a number of "dislikes" (e.g. manual too big) and "change requests" (e.g. integration with PRINCE2® Managing Successful Programs (MSP)).

Fundamentals are unchanged, but with more emphasis on:

- Less Prescriptive
- Quality and Benefits are Key
- Easier to Scale
- More Guidance for the Project Board
- Continuous Improvement is Central

The main influences relate to placing PRINCE2® projects in a broader business context - and removing some of the more obscure and prescriptive terminology which created the impression of bureaucracy.