

PMP Exam Advice

Your Name	Aaron Porter
Date of Exam	12/22/2008
PMBok Version on the exam	v3 - 2004
Care to share your exam score? (optional)	

What did you do to prepare for the exam? (IE Prep Class, Special Book, Study Buddies)

I started a study group, but it did not last long as most of the group had schedule conflicts. I also studied using books, audio, video, flash cards, and practice exams. I did not take a prep class, but my BS degree included a specialization in Project Management.

What did you find to be the most helpful activity in preparing for the exam?

The most helpful activity in preparing for the exam took place before I began preparing for the exam. Taking the time to understand my learning style helped me to identify the most effective types of study for my learning style.

Now that you have taken the exam, what were the areas (of study or activities) that you feel were a waste of time?

For the price I paid, the video was the biggest waste of time. I learn equally well from both video and audio, in most cases, and did not wait long enough to get the video on sale, which cost significantly more than the audio.

Now that you have taken the exam, what were the areas (of study or activities) that you feel were not a waste of time?

In addition to Rita's book, practice exams were the most helpful. A good practice exam will help you prepare for the experience of taking the exam and help relieve pressures associated with test taking.

How much time (in months, hours, etc) did you study for the exam? Do you think it was adequate, not enough, too much?

This is difficult to quantify. I took the time it needed to go through all of the study materials I purchased at least once, including going through practice exams several times, and my Bachelor's degree included a specialization in Project Management – there were several 12 week PM classes, each requiring 10-20 hours a week of study and homework.

Now that you've taken the exam, do you feel the questions asked were expected (based on your reading, studies, etc) or were they a complete surprise?

Most of the questions were similar to those found on the better practice exams.

If you had to repeat the study process all over (or give general advise), what would you do differently?

Schedule more personal, uninterrupted study time.

Any other general advice that you'd like to share?

If possible, be part of a study group that has a mentor who has passed the version of the exam within the past couple of years. Preparing for the exam is not the time to learn about project management, it is the time to learn how to take and pass the exam.