Project Management methodologies compared

	About	Pros	Cons
PRINCE2	Invented by the UK government in 1985 for large IT projects (and look at them!) Broadened out to all projects in 1995: PRINCE '2' Very popular since then In decline now Product extension called MSP Has a multiple choice test at the end which is a sort of qualification	Gives an overview of all projects Gives control of projects – they can't be started or progress to next stages without sign off Forces management to engage with the PM process Great if you are doing one big project and you a full time PM	Expensive to learn and to implement Too complicated (just google it and see for yourself) Doesn't tell you HOW to do anything e.g. how to estimate tasks. Not even how to use Gantt charts. Just certifies that there is a plan, signed off by the board. Too boring for normal staff to engage with I've never seen it work successfully
APM	Association of Project Management Been around for 100 years, it's the combined experience of 1000s of real Project Managers All their knowledge is in an ever increasing tome called the PMBOK (Body of Knowledge) Has a qualification called PMP (Project Management Professional) which is well respected	Very practical Tells the PM everything they need to do in the process of planning and implementing a project Allows you to forecast finish time and cost at any point during your project Recognised in USA as well – they call it PMI over there.	The PMBOK can be too complicated – needs to be boiled down and just the good bits used, (which is what my course does) Does require a list of all tasks, and estimates of all tasks, at the start – though risk planning recognises that some of these will change during the project.
Agile / Scrum	The latest trendy thing being pushed by consultants Based on remaining flexible when there is uncertainty in the project, e.g. software design Contains terms like "Sprints", "Burndown charts", and "Scrum masters".	Acknowledges the risk involved in creative processes. Sounds fun and exciting. Great if you're not sure what you want yet.	Not able to predict finish time or total cost, unless these are fixed and the deliverables are allowed to be completely flexible. So not really a plan at all, more a weekly time management meeting. (Those are good, but not enough!) All the risk is with the customer