

Agile versus Waterfall Recap Quiz Explanations

1. A big factor that underlies many of the stereotypes and misconceptions that exist about Agile Project Management is that "Agile" and "Waterfall" are perceived as binary and mutually-exclusive choices and people try to force-fit projects to one of those extremes.

- True
- False

Explanation: This statement is true. Many of the misconceptions and stereotypes associated with Agile Project Management can be traced to this one misconception.

2. PMI and the project management profession have a long way to go to get to the point where Agile and traditional plan-driven project management practices are perceived as a much more well-integrated approach. Today, those two areas are perceived as separate and independent domains of knowledge with little or no integration.

- True
- False

Explanation: This statement is true. Agile and traditional plan-driven project management are still treated largely as separate and independent domains of knowledge with little or no integration between the two by PMI and many other elements of the project management profession.

3. Many of the basic project and program management practices we know today have their origin in the 1950's and 1960's

- True
- False

Explanation: Many of today's project management practices had their origins in the 1950's and 1960's with the advent of large government programs like the Navy's Polaris missile program and the NASA Apollo program to put a man on the moon. A number of techniques such as CPM and PERT were invented in that time period to help plan and organize large complex projects and PMI was founded in 1969.

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4. The pace of technology adoption is a major factor that is making it difficult for traditional plan-driven approaches to keep pace

- True
- False

Explanation: The pace of adopting new technology is a major factor that is impacting the way we do project management today. As technology moves faster and faster, there is a lot more uncertainty that makes it difficult to do a plan-driven approach and the pressure to get products to market quickly within shorter product lifecycles makes it essential to streamline the way we do project management.

5. Organizational Agility is an important benefit that can result from adopting an Agile project management approach

- True
- False

Explanation: If Agile is done correctly, it requires breaking down barriers in organizations to create a cross-functional approach. That can result in a much more synergistic and high impact organization that can have a dramatic impact on overall productivity.

6. How might adopting an Agile approach accelerate the time-to-market for a project?

- Accelerating the startup of the project by reducing the amount of upfront planning and documentation required to get started
- Prioritizing functionality and delivering functionality incrementally
- Improved efficiency will accelerate progress by reducing unnecessary overhead
- All of the above

Explanation: All of the above statements about accelerating time-to-market in an Agile project are correct.

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7. Why is an Agile approach likely to result in higher levels of customer satisfaction??

- Because the customer is more directly engaged in the project and providing feedback and input as the project proceeds rather than relying more heavily on documented requirements
- Because the results of the development effort are reviewed incrementally as they are being completed at the end of each sprint rather than waiting for all project deliverables to be complete
- Because quality testing is more fully integrated into the development effort rather than being treated as a separate and sequential activity
- All of the above

Explanation: All of the above statements about improving customer satisfaction in an Agile project are correct.