

KK12 — Techniques for assessing the effectiveness of a project plan

Development & Evaluation · Comprehensive exam study guide

STUDY DESIGN — YOU MUST KNOW

- reviewing the number of changes made to the project plan
- the reason changes were necessary
- the impact of changes on the completion of the project

After a project you judge **how good the plan was**. You use the records from KK11 to consider three things: how many changes were made, why, and how they affected completion.

What to assess

Consideration	Question to ask
Number of changes	How many adjustments were made to the original plan?
Reasons for changes	Why were they needed (scope creep, personnel, technical issues)?
Impact on completion	Did changes delay/advance completion, affect quality or budget?

Forming a judgement

A plan with **few changes**, mostly for unavoidable reasons, with **little impact** on the deadline, was effective. Many changes due to avoidable causes (e.g. unclear scope) that delayed completion indicate a less effective plan — with lessons for next time.

REMEMBER

Effectiveness of a plan $\neq$ success of the solution. A plan is effective if it guided the project to completion with few, well-justified changes and minimal disruption.

Key definitions to memorise

Project-plan effectiveness

How well the plan guided the project to completion, judged by the number, reasons and impact of changes made.

Exam technique

EXAM TIP

- Use the three considerations as a structure for an extended-response answer.
- Justify your judgement with the records (number/reasons/impact).

COMMON MISTAKES

- Confusing assessing the plan with evaluating the solution — they are different.
- Counting changes without considering their reasons or impact.

Quick revision checklist

- I can list the three considerations for assessing a plan.
- I can form and justify a judgement about a plan's effectiveness.

Exam practice — questions & model answers

Q1. State the three considerations used to assess the effectiveness of a project plan.

State · 3 marks

Model answer

- The number of changes made (1).
- The reasons the changes were necessary (1).
- The impact of the changes on completion (1).

Q2. Explain why the number of changes alone is not enough to judge a plan's effectiveness.

Explain · 2 marks

Model answer

- Some changes are unavoidable and minor (1),
- so you must also consider why they happened and how much they affected completion to judge the plan fairly (1).