



Project Management Challenge™

TEAM DEVELOPMENT

Improve the management and productivity of your project teams

Unlock the secrets of synergy and successful project management.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE?

Developed by Dr. Janet L. Szumal, *Project Management Challenge* is an exercise that provides an opportunity for improving project management capabilities as well as teamwork. Specifically, the exercise challenges participants to identify the optimal sequence for carrying out 24 project management activities.

HOW DOES THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE WORK?

Solutions to the exercise are developed by participants first on an individual basis and then with a group. Individual and group solutions are then compared to the recommended solution. The recommended solution is based on the project management literature and consultation from William R. Duncan, former Director of Standards for the Project Management Institute.

Comparisons between participants' individual solutions and the recommended solution indicate how well participants are exercising their knowledge, experience, and skills with respect to project management and complex decision making. Comparisons between participants' individual scores and their team's score indicate whether they achieved synergy by fully using and building on their collective knowledge and skills.

The *Project Management Challenge* takes approximately 1¾ to 3¼ hours to complete, including scoring and debriefing.

APPLICATIONS

The *Project Management Challenge* can be used as an icebreaker, overview, central activity, wrap-up or summary activity, pre-test/post-test, or follow-up activity for programs focusing on:

- Project planning and management
- Certification in project management
- Team building

In addition, the exercise can be used as a tool for:

- Kicking off a project
- Evaluating existing project management approaches
- Preparing for a move to matrix structures

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WHO SHOULD EXPERIENCE THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE?

The *Project Management Challenge* specifically focuses on management of projects and use of related tools and techniques. As a result, the simulation is designed for a narrower audience than our *Project Planning Situation*™ (which focuses on more general planning skills).

This is appropriate for project managers, directors, sponsors, and others responsible for projects. It is also appropriate for project management certification review courses and seminars.

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