

Assessment 1

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1.

i What makes construction industry different from other industries?

One way in which construction differs from other industries is that no two projects are ever the same, each project is unique. This uniqueness of each project is defined by the nature of the site of construction and is also influenced by the weather, as well as, the ground conditions due to various site locations.

ii. The accident rate in construction industry is four times higher than than in any other industry. Why?

The wide range of varying working conditions involving supported structures, moving equipment and labour make the site a highly unpredictable environment.

Due to the rapidly changing conditions, it is not adequate to adopt safety procedures from the static manufacturing environment for implementation on construction projects sites.

iii. Outline the main duties that mid-level management perform in construction industry.

They are mostly involved in the procurement of materials, labour and equipment management. They may also be responsible for highly specialised duties such as lift installation and HVAC.

iv. What does the first line manager do?

The responsibilities of the construction supervisor include making sure that all work meet the right quality, cost does not overrun budget due to mistakes and the work is completed on time The supervisor instructs workers on what to do and motivates workers to accomplish all objectives by promoting a good relationship between the workers and the general public. The supervisor deals with all manner of conflicts arising at the work site and trains and develops the workforce to meet new challenges. Reports to mid-level management.

v. Give a broader classification of basic activities of a construction project.

Design and planning- The Owner will through a tender process will engage the engineering group of managers, architects, structural engineers, and civil engineers. To ensure that the project complies with the laws of the land agencies carry out inspections and provide certifications for various activities on site many agencies are involved to play a specific role in the course to the project lifecycle including government agencies, town and country planning councils and land authorities.

Executing construction work- The main contractor will engage the services of sub-contractors on contracts to execute various planned activities within a specified time frame. Sub-contractors may also employ hundreds skilled workers to work on specialise aspects of the project. There is the need of a great deal of organisation and management of a large group of people who interact with each other in many ways to produce the final product within a limited time period. The Owner, Engineering group and construction group all interact in a well-organised way with no particular group having absolute control. Each group has a set of unique functions to perform at specific moments and their activities may overlap or occur sequentially.

Supervision and inspection- The projects workforce is autonomous in tackling their responsibilities. This makes it imperative to have available well-trained personnel who would executive their mandated activities professionally and on time to achieve satisfactorily high quality product. A supervisor will ensure that all specifications and plans are being followed by undertaking regular planned or unplanned inspections of activities on the site. The supervisor will ensure that construction is done according to the contract drawings, specifications and the contractor follows the agreed schedule. supervising and inspecting quality standards of materials, processes and safe workmanship are maintained.

2. Each construction project is a unique project. Discuss. Also describe the one off characteristic of construction industry.

One major difference between the construction and mainstream manufacturing industries is that products resulting from construction are stationary, while those, which results from manufacturing, tend to be mobile during value addition. Construction industry requires moving resources such as labour, equipment etc., from one place to the other to create products under dynamic and hazardous working conditions. Manufacturing industries on the other hand require products at various stages of product lifecycle to move from one facility to the next for value to be added. Products are standardised and easy to control unlike

construction where new techniques or modifications to existing techniques have to be developed to deal with the constantly changing working environment.

3. Discuss the specific characteristics of construction industry which make it different from others.

This unique characteristics of each project is defined by not only a different client, architect and personal employing their own methods but also the nature of the site of construction and also the weather, and various site locations. no two projects are ever the same, each project is unique.

Construction industry requires moving resources such as labour, equipment from one place to the other to create products under dynamic and hazardous working conditions. In other industry products are standardised and easy to control unlike construction where new techniques or modifications to existing techniques have to be developed to deal with the constantly changing working environment.