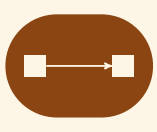
Note

Systems Planning℠ is multi-disciplinary (Perdicoúlis, 2010, 2014e), and builds broad and diverse competences (Perdicoúlis, 2011, 2014b). This folio is a compilation of training questions, requiring responses in appropriate means (e.g. text, lists, tables, diagrams) and always *documented*, *objective*, *accurate*, and *precise* (Perdicoúlis, 2012, 2014a).

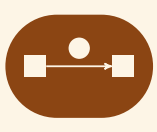
Study questions are grouped in complementary viewpoints on objects of interest (Perdicoúlis, 2014f) — i.e. systems (§ 1), processes (§ 2), and plans (§ 3) — cutting across subjects such as Spatial Planning, Impact Assessment, Project Management, Business Organisation, Research Methodology, and Scientific Communication.

1 System



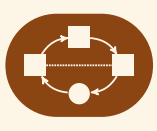
1. Explain the concept of 'system'. Give some examples, first in text and then in appropriate corresponding diagrams.
2. Explain the concept of 'space'. Give some examples, first in text and then in the media you find most appropriate.
3. Argue that space is a system. Try to demonstrate your argument with an appropriate diagram.
4. How does a system function? How do we know? How can we transmit that? Give an example of a system, and corresponding examples of communication media.
5. How is a system built? How do we describe that? Give an example of a built system first as a narrative (text) and then as an appropriate diagram.
6. What could 'development' of a system mean? Give examples in the contexts of spatial planning, organisations, and projects.
7. Can you distinguish between *objective* and *subjective* information? As an example, classify the information of a diagrammatic system model.
8. Identify some forecasting methods (procedures) and techniques (tools), and assess their scientific rigour.
9. How would you assess information that is being *forecast*? What would your references be in different contexts (e.g. impact assessment, business planning) or perspectives (scientist/ forecaster, user/ company shareholder)? Give examples for each case.
10. How would you assess the *registered* or observed impacts? *Idem* for intended outcomes.

2 Process



1. Identify operations and projects as *processes*. What are the main characteristics as protocols? Illustrate diagrammatically.
2. How would you communicate certain types of project outcomes (e.g. intended or unintended)? Reflect on the kind of information you are trying to transmit.
3. What is a realistic stakeholder list or map for your project? When and how would you consult project stakeholders? *Idem* for *shareholders* as a very special group.
4. Can you draw the process of the project as a 'task–state' digraph? Can you add time and other associated resources to the 'task–state' digraph?
5. Define and relate/ distinguish between the project's objectives, outcomes, deliverables, and milestones.
6. Give examples of the milestones of a project process. Which actions are associated?
7. Can you relate the objectives and actions of a project in a diagrammatic form? What kind of diagrams would you consider? (e.g. sequence, cascade, agile timeline, cycle)
8. How much is 'enough' information when you need to 'get to know' a particular project as a team member, project manager, or sponsor?
9. What are the perceived business needs per stakeholder perspective? (e.g. client, producer, sponsor)?
10. What are the key requirements and limiting factors of a project?
11. What could go wrong in your project? How could you prevent or avoid the risks of your project? How could you mitigate the risks of your project?
12. What is the financial breakdown of your project? How would you start? Give an example of such a breakdown, using a table or appropriate diagram.
13. Who communicates with whom in the project? Through which media, and how often? Are there any 'prohibited' pathways?
14. How would you structure a project/ process assessment report?
15. How would you assess an environmental impact statement (EIS) of a project? For which criteria? And with which benchmarks?
16. Indicate two instances of 'assessment' in the planning process; *idem* for 'objectives'. Indicate these instances in a process diagram.

3 Plan



1. Relate 'urban' and 'regional' planning, and relate the plans they produce.
2. How would you measure the *efficiency* of a plan, policy, or strategy? *Idem* for *effectiveness*. Give some examples for each of the two concepts.
3. Demonstrate the content and meaning of a 'stakeholder map' in the context of physical planning.
4. Present the contents and function of a plan as a 'spatial management instrument'. Indicate the utility of this instrument from various stakeholder perspectives.
5. Diagrammatically relate municipal 'framework plans' with other municipal plans.
6. Diagrammatically represent the document hierarchy of a 'framework plan'.
7. How would you assess a plan? For which criteria? And with which benchmarks? Can you find 'internal' points of reference for this assessment? What happens if/ when the documentation of the plan to be assessed is limited?
8. What is 'backcasting'? Provide examples in the contexts of spatial planning and business planning. What is different across the two contexts?
9. What is a 'strategy map'? How many kinds do you know of? What are the differences between them?
10. Identify three alternative interpretations of 'urban growth'. Provide an example of urban or regional development in the sense of 'maturity'.
11. For the 'medical' and 'military' metaphors in the context of spatial planning, identify (a) the source field, (b) key terms, and (c) the concepts they represent.
12. Provide one example of a *vision* in the context of spatial planning. Is this vision meaningful without reference to a specific entity (e.g. the 'viewer')?
13. Provide an example of an action, its objective (upstream), and two effects (downstream). Try to answer in (a) text and (b) SPML™.
14. How can you show — in text and SPML™ — that the effects are capable of satisfying the objective of the action (or an even higher-level concern)?

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