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CS615 Assignment 1 Solution

Fall 2026

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CS615 — Software Project Management

Assignment No. 1 — Fall 2026

A software company must build an Online Learning Management System for a university within six months and a budget of Rs. 5 million. Students will register for courses, watch lecture videos, attempt quizzes, submit assignments, and view results. The eight-member team of developers, designers, and testers is already running into trouble, and the four questions below deal with that situation.

Question 1 — Major project management problems and how to address them

• Unclear requirements: the customer has not fully defined what the system must do. The manager should run structured elicitation sessions, build a small prototype of the main screens, agree a written requirements baseline with the customer, and put every later change through formal change control.

• Confused roles and responsibilities: team members do not know who owns what. The manager should publish a responsibility chart (who is responsible, accountable, consulted, and informed for each work package) and confirm it in a kickoff meeting.

• No proper plan or schedule: without a plan, six months and Rs. 5 million cannot be controlled. The manager should break the work into a work breakdown structure, estimate each part, and lay it out on a dated schedule with clear milestones.

• Duplicated and ignored tasks: some work is done twice while important work is missed. The manager should assign every task to exactly one owner, track progress on a shared task board, and review it in short weekly progress meetings.

• Uncontrolled scope creep: the customer keeps adding features without considering budget or deadline. Every new request should go through impact analysis on scope, time, and cost, and should only enter the plan with the customer’s written approval, trading off against time, budget, or lower-priority features.

Question 2 — How the four P’s help manage this project

People: success depends on the right people in the right roles. The manager should match developers, designers, and testers to work that fits their skills, keep the team motivated, and settle the role confusion identified above.

Product: the product must be clearly defined before it can be built. The manager should agree the LMS scope with the university — registration, videos, quizzes, assignments, results — and guard that scope against uncontrolled additions.

Process: process is how the work gets done. A defined process for requirements, design, coding, testing, and review, plus regular communication and risk tracking, keeps an eight-member team moving in the same direction.

Project: project covers planning and control. The manager plans the schedule and the Rs. 5

million budget, then monitors progress against them every week, taking corrective action the moment actual progress drifts from the plan.

Question 3 — Recommended life cycle model

An Agile (Scrum) iterative model is recommended. The waterfall model is unsuitable here because it needs frozen requirements, while this customer's requirements are unclear and keep changing. In Scrum, the LMS is built in short sprints, each delivering a working increment — for example, registration first, then videos, then quizzes and assignments. The customer reviews each increment, so misunderstandings are caught early, new requests are absorbed into the prioritized backlog instead of derailing the plan, and working software is visible long before the six-month deadline. Testing in every sprint also protects quality despite the tight schedule.

Question 4 — Managing scope, time, and cost

Scope, time, and cost form the triple constraint: changing one forces a change in at least one of the others. The manager should protect the balance in four ways. First, prioritize: deliver the must-have LMS functions (registration, videos, quizzes, assignments, results) before nice-to-have extras. Second, control change: every new feature passes impact analysis, and the customer chooses whether to pay more, allow more time, or drop something else. Third, plan in phases: if the six months or the Rs. 5 million come under pressure, release the core system first and schedule extras for a later phase. Fourth, monitor continuously: track completed work against the schedule and the budget every week, keep a small contingency reserve for surprises, and raise problems with the customer early, while options still exist.