PMP and CTP side by side: exam, eligibility and what you prepare for

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The PMP is PMI's best-known credential and the CTP is IICTP's flagship. They serve different jobs, but people want to know how the exams and entry requirements compare. This post lays out the published facts, with sources, and says plainly what is not being compared.

TL;DR The short version

- The PMP and the CTP serve different jobs; this post compares their published exam facts and entry rules, with sources.
- Both gate on experience and count years rather than job titles.
- PMI's page says that from 1 December 2026 live classes count toward the 35 training hours only from approved providers; neither exam is called easier, because that depends on your background.

Read online, listen to it, or change the text size: https://blogs.iictp.org/pmp-and-ctp-exam-eligibility-side-by-side

PMI facts in this post were read on pmi.org on 20 October 2026 and may have changed since. PMI®, PMP®, CAPM® and PMI-ACP® are marks of Project Management Institute, Inc. IICTP is not affiliated with or endorsed by PMI.

The numbers, from each body's own pages

	PMP (PMI)	CTP (IICTP)
Questions	180	150, scenario-based
Time	240 minutes	180 minutes
Experience with a bachelor's degree	3 years managing projects	36 months of technical leadership
Experience with a high school diploma	5 years managing projects	60 months of technical leadership
Other routes	Associate's degree: 4 years. Degree from a PMI Global Accreditation Center program: 2 years	None
Required training	35 hours of project management training	None for the CTP
Pass mark	Not covered in this comparison	70% score; no negative marking
What it covers	People, processes and business environment (PMI's description)	Five TPBOK domains; Architecture & Systems Design is the largest share at 30%

PMP column from pmi.org/certifications/project-management-pmp, read 20 October 2026. CTP column from iictp.org/certifications/exam-facts.

We have not compared pass marks because we did not capture PMI's on the pages we read. We would rather leave a cell out than guess it.

What the experience requirements actually ask

Both credentials gate on experience, and both count years rather than titles. The difference is the kind of experience. PMI asks for time spent managing projects in a professional setting, taking responsibility for planning, decisions, delivery and outcomes. IICTP asks for time in technical leadership: owning technical decisions for a team's systems and delivery. Someone can have years of one and little of the other.

What you would study

For the PMP, PMI points candidates to its Exam Content Outline, which describes three domains: people, process and business environment. For the CTP, the blueprint lists the five TPBOK domains with their share of the exam.

CTP DOMAIN	SHARE OF QUESTIONS
Architecture & Systems Design	30%
Engineering Governance & Agile Delivery	24%
Applied AI & Emerging Tech Integration	18%
Infrastructure & Security	18%
People Leadership in Engineering	10%

From the CTP exam blueprint, version 1.0.

One rule change worth knowing about

PMI's PMP page states that from 1 December 2026, live instructor-led classes count toward the 35 training hours only if delivered by a PMI Authorized Training Partner, a China Registered Education Provider, or an eligible accredited higher-education program. If you plan to take the PMP, check PMI's current rules before booking a course.

Which is easier?

That depends on your background, so we will not claim either is. A strong engineer with no project management experience will find the CTP closer to daily work. An experienced project manager with a light technical background will find the PMP closer to theirs. Neither exam rewards memorising a list.

> Remember: IICTP is an independent technical credential. While the PMP is established for general project delivery, the CTP is designed specifically to measure technical judgement and system architecture decisions.

Sources and further reading

1. Project Management Institute. "Project Management Professional (PMP)® Certification." pmi.org/certifications/project-management-pmp. Read 20 October 2026.
2. IICTP. "Exam facts, eligibility and blueprints." iictp.org/certifications/exam-facts.

3. IICTP. “CTP™ exam blueprint,” version 1.0, 21 October 2026. iictp.org/blueprints/IICTP-CTP-Exam-Blueprint.pdf.

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