



Preparation Assignment Answer Key  
SEASON 2023, EPISODE FIVE  
March 8, 2023  
FAR PARTS 8, 38, 39, AND 51:  
SELECTING SOURCES

Preparation Assignment (20 points each)

**Fill In the Blank Questions:**

1. The **Federal Supply Schedule** program is directed and managed by GSA and provides **Federal agencies** (see **8.004**) with a simplified process for obtaining **commercial supplies** and **commercial services** at prices associated with **volume buying**. [Hint: Check out **FAR 8.402**]
2. By placing an order against a **schedule contract** using the procedures in **8.405**, the **ordering activity** has concluded that the order represents the **best value** (as defined in FAR **2.101**) and results in the **lowest overall cost alternative** (considering **price**, **special features**, **administrative costs**, etc.) to meet the Government's needs. [Hint: Check out **FAR 8.404**]
3. A time-and-materials or labor-hour order **may** be used for the *acquisition* of commercial **services** only when it is not possible at the time of placing the order to estimate accurately the **extent** or **duration** of the work or to anticipate **costs** with any reasonable **degree of confidence**. [Hint: Check out **FAR 8.404(h)**]
4. Prior to entering into a contract for **information technology**, an agency *should* analyze **risks**, **benefits**, and **costs**. [Hint: Check out **FAR 39.102**]
5. The **contracting officer** *shall* insert a clause substantially the same as the clause at **52.239-1, Privacy or Security Safeguards**, in solicitations and contracts for information technology which require **security** of *information technology*, and/or are for the **design**, **development**, or **operation** of **a system of records** using commercial *information technology* services or support services. [Hint: Check out **FAR 39.106**]

**"Look 'Em Ups"** (Enter the FAR cite and Answer)

1. As a general rule, FAR Part 8 MUST be used as a mandatory source of "supply" for the U.S. Government. What are the six enumerated exceptions to this general rule.

**FAR 8.605**

- (a) (1) The contracting officer makes a determination that the FPI item of supply is not comparable to supplies available from the private sector that best meet the Government's needs in terms of price, quality, and time of delivery; and (2) The item is acquired in accordance with 8.602(a)(4);
- (b) Public exigency requires immediate delivery or performance;
- (c) Suitable used or excess supplies are available;
- (d) The supplies are acquired and used outside the United States;
- (e) Acquiring listed items totaling \$3,500 or less;
- (f) Acquiring items that FPI offers exclusively on a competitive (non-mandatory) basis, as identified in the FPI Schedule; or

(g) Acquiring services.

2. According to the FAR Council, what specific types of risks should a contracting officer assess and try to mitigate in an acquisition for information technology?

**FAR 39.102(b)**

Types of risk may include schedule risk, risk of technical obsolescence, cost risk, risk implicit in a particular contract type, technical feasibility, dependencies between a new project and other projects or systems, the number of simultaneous high risk projects to be monitored, funding availability, and program management risk.

**FAR Question:** As a general rule, the General Services Administration is responsible for the administration of all Federal Supply Schedules for supplies and services. Which federal agency has GSA delegated the administration of a Federal Supply Schedule for certain medical supplies and nonperishable subsistence items?

**FAR 38.101(d)**

Department of Veterans Affairs

**FUN Question:** Speaking about all things “medical”, one of my favorite soap operas growing up involved a hospital and two characters named “Luke” and “Laura”. What was the name of that soap opera. For an additional twenty (20) “fun” points, tell me the year that these two characters were married on the show.

General Hospital

1981