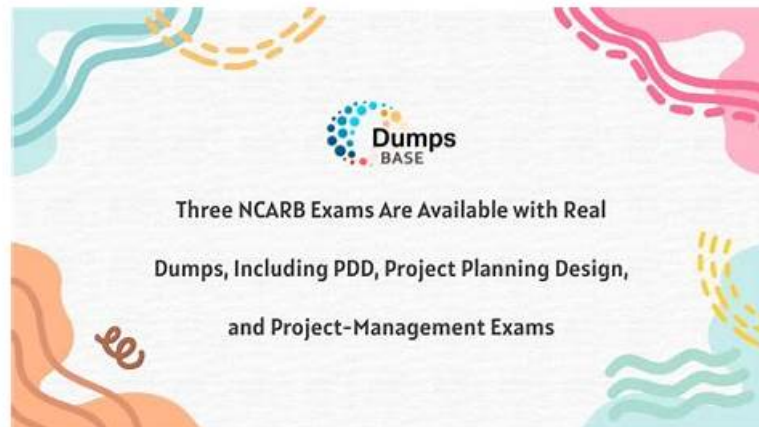


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NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codes & Regulations: This section of the exam measures the skills of project architects and focuses on applying zoning laws, environmental rules, and building codes during the planning stage. Candidates are tested on how to integrate multiple regulatory requirements into a project’s design effectively.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Integration of Program & Systems: This section of the exam measures skills of project architects and focuses on integrating decisions about environmental conditions, codes, and building systems into one cohesive project design. It highlights how to configure the building and incorporate both program requirements and contextual conditions in a unified design approach.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Systems, Materials, & Assemblies: This section of the exam measures skills of architectural designers and covers the understanding of building systems such as mechanical, electrical, and plumbing, along with structural and specialty systems. It also involves selecting appropriate materials and assemblies to align with program needs, budgets, and regulations.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Costs & Budgeting: This section of the exam measures skills of architectural designers and assesses the ability to evaluate design alternatives based on program goals, perform cost evaluations, and manage cost considerations throughout the design process.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Conditions & Context: This section of the exam measures skills of architectural designers and covers how to use site analysis information to determine building placement and environmental planning decisions. It emphasizes applying sustainable principles and considering the neighborhood context to guide project design.

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NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q26-Q31):

NEW QUESTION # 26

An architect is designing overhangs for a building on a site in the southeastern United States. The architect desires to minimize heat gain during the summer months.

Click in the sun on the solar path diagram that the architect should consider when designing the overhangs.

Answer:

Explanation:

Explanation:

A diagram of solar path diagram AI-generated content may be incorrect.

* The solar path diagram shows the sun's trajectory through the sky at different times of the year.

* In the southeastern U.S., during summer months, the sun reaches a high altitude (near the top of the solar path diagram), typically toward the southern sky.

* Designing overhangs to block this high summer sun reduces direct solar heat gain inside the building, improving thermal comfort and reducing cooling loads.

* The lower sun position corresponds to winter when sunlight penetration is beneficial for passive solar heating and daylighting, so overhangs should allow low-angle winter sun while shading high-angle summer sun.

On the provided diagrams, the sun symbol at the highest arc near the south (the highest yellow sun on the upper diagram) represents the summer sun path to focus on for shading design.

NEW QUESTION # 27

An elementary school requires a renovation, selective demolition, and a major addition in order to accommodate a growing student population. An architectural firm has prepared schematic design plans incorporating the school's increased programmatic needs, including an enlarged library, cafeteria, and gymnasium; a secure courtyard; and additional space for administrative offices and classrooms. The main entrance was relocated in order to improve the traffic and pedestrian flow at the beginning and end of the school day, and additional parking was provided to comply with current zoning requirements.

The existing single-story masonry building was built in 1950. Two small additions were built later: the north addition will be kept and repurposed, but the south addition will be demolished. The building contains asbestos and lead in roof soffits, floor tiles, pipe insulation, and window paint. All existing mechanical systems need to be replaced; new systems have not been selected.

Considerations for the renovation include:

*The relocated front entrance must be easily recognizable, highly visible, and secure.

*Interior and exterior materials need to be durable and maintainable in order to withstand frequent student abuse, but also economical due to strict budget limitations.

*Good indoor air quality and increased energy efficiency are priorities for the selection of mechanical equipment.

After completion, the entire school should look uniform, without a distinctive difference between the existing building and new addition.

Building information:

*Construction Type is II-B.

The following resources are available for your reference:

*Existing Plans, including site and floor plans

*Proposed Plans, including site and floor plans

*Cost Analysis

*Zoning Ordinance Excerpts, for off-street parking requirements

*IBC Excerpts, showing relevant code sections

*ADA Standards Excerpts, showing relevant sections from the ADA Standards for Accessible Design The project team decides to cover the roof area above the gymnasium and platform with 350 watt, stationary, photovoltaic (PV) panels. Each panel requires 20

square feet, accounting for access aisles and safety clearances. The PV system will be tied to the local power company's electrical grid, and will not have battery storage. The school is located in a region that gets an average of 4 usable hours of sunlight per day. Which of the following PV system design considerations apply to this project? Check the three that apply.

Refer to the project involving an elementary school renovation and addition with photovoltaic (PV) panels on the gymnasium roof (350-watt panels, 20 sq ft each, ~4 usable sunlight hours/day). The PV system is grid-tied without battery storage.

Which of the following PV system design considerations apply? Check the three that apply.

- A. The PV system will reduce the need for artificial lighting in the gymnasium and platform areas.
- **B. The PV system will be made up of approximately 273 panels.**
- C. The PV system will provide emergency power for the school if the grid goes down.
- **D. The PV system will produce approximately 95.5 kW during peak sun conditions.**
- **E. The gymnasium and platform structural system must be designed to support the load of the PV system.**
- F. The PV panels should be mounted toward the student pick-up/drop-off.

Answer: B,D,E

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

B: Structural support must accommodate PV panel weight and wind loads.

C: Number of panels is calculated by dividing total roof area by panel area (total panel count # 273).

F: Peak power output = number of panels × wattage per panel (273 × 350 W # 95.5 kW).

A: Grid-tied systems without batteries do not provide power during outages.

D: PV panels generate electricity but do not directly reduce artificial lighting needs.

E: Panels are mounted for optimal solar exposure, not necessarily toward pick-up areas.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Solar Energy

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Renewable Energy

NEW QUESTION # 28

An architect has just received client approval of the Schematic Design documents for a three-story, outpatient medical clinic. The clinic is located within a mixed-use development governed by a City-approved Planned Development (PD) document. The medical clinic design utilizes standardized departmental layouts and includes outpatient clinics, as well as treatment spaces, administrative spaces and public/lobby spaces.

The site needs to accommodate four different vehicular traffic flows: patient traffic, staff traffic, service and delivery traffic, and emergency services traffic. In addition, a pedestrian plaza must connect to the mixed-use development sidewalks. The plaza must provide space for bicycle parking and will serve as the future bus stop.

The site design addresses several challenges related to building orientation. The southeast facade, with excellent visibility from the highway, is the location of all service equipment. The building entrance faces northwest, convenient to the parking but not visible from the highway.

The client believes future patient volumes will outgrow the clinic. The PD document allows for a planned Phase 2 development on the adjacent vacant site to the southwest. Phase 2 would include a second building (2 story, 80,000 BGSF) and/or a parking deck.

Other considerations for the project include:

* Protected tree requirements are defined in the PD document.

* Easy pedestrian access must be provided from Sycamore Boulevard.

* All required parking for the clinic must be accommodated on site.

* Programmed area includes 109,450 Departmental Gross Square Feet (DGSF) / 130,184 Building Gross Square Feet (BGSF).

* Exterior material percentages are dictated by the PD document and shall not exceed specific percentages for Primary and Secondary Finishes.

* All service equipment needs to be screened; see PD document for restrictions.

* Signage opportunities are important to the client.

* Acoustical privacy is a concern of the healthcare system.

The following resources are available for your reference:

* Drawings, including a perspective, plans, and exterior elevations

* Building Program, including client's departmental program and detailed program for Treatment 01 (Infusion)

* Exterior Material Cost Comparisons

* Planned Development Document

* IBC Excerpts, showing relevant code sections

* ADA Excerpts, showing relevant sections from the ADA Standards for Accessible Design

□ Which of the following design strategies would best address the vehicular circulation, visibility, and future expansion challenges for

this project? Select the best answer.

- A. Position the pedestrian plaza on the southeast side adjacent to the highway to maximize visibility, cluster all vehicular access points on the southwest for future expansion ease, and place the main entrance on the northeast facade.
- B. Locate all vehicular traffic flows on the same access road to minimize site complexity and locate the main entrance on the southeast facade for maximum highway visibility.
- **C. Separate vehicular traffic flows with distinct entry and exit points, locate service equipment on the southeast facade screened per PD requirements, and position the building entrance on the northwest side facing parking for convenient access.**
- D. Use a centralized parking deck adjacent to the northeast facade, locate all service equipment on the northwest facade to enhance visibility, and connect the pedestrian plaza internally through the building rather than adjacent sidewalks.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Based on the project description and site context:

* Separating vehicular traffic flows into distinct entry and exit points improves safety and efficiency.

Patient, staff, service/delivery, and emergency vehicles each have different operational needs and access priorities. This separation reduces conflicts and congestion.

* Locating service equipment on the southeast facade, which has excellent highway visibility, is appropriate because service areas are typically screened but can take advantage of visibility for logistical purposes. The PD document restricts screening and material use here, so adherence to those guidelines is necessary.

* Positioning the main building entrance on the northwest side facing the parking lot optimizes patient and visitor convenience, even though it has less visibility from the highway. This respects pedestrian access from Sycamore Boulevard and aligns with parking access, enhancing user experience.

* Future expansion (Phase 2) on the adjacent southwest vacant site is planned, so site circulation and building orientation must allow for growth without major redesign.

* Placing the pedestrian plaza connecting to existing sidewalks with bicycle parking and future bus stop meets ADA and site planning requirements, ensuring multimodal accessibility.

* The strategy in Option B addresses client priorities, PD document constraints, visibility, safety, and operational efficiency, consistent with NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Integration of Program and Systems content focusing on complex site planning and programmatic coordination.

* Options A, C, and D introduce compromises in circulation, visibility, or expansion potential that conflict with the project constraints and client needs.

References:

ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design Content Outline: Project Integration of Program and Systems - Site Planning and Vehicular Circulation City-approved Planned Development (PD) Document Excerpts ADA Standards for Accessible Design - Pedestrian Access and Circulation The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapter 7: Site Design and Program Integration

NEW QUESTION # 29

Refer to the exhibit (four building sections with fan locations (F) and boiler/chiller equipment (*)).

Which of the fan locations (F) indicated for a four-story office building would allow the most efficient provision for weekend cooling?

- A. D
- B. B
- **C. C**
- D. A

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

For efficient weekend cooling in a multi-story office building, placing fan equipment centrally between the conditioned spaces reduces duct lengths, allows better zoning, and minimizes energy use.

In option C, fans are located mid-building between office floors and other uses, allowing for more efficient distribution and individual zone control.

Other options (A, B, D) place fans either all at one end or stacked at one side, increasing duct runs and reducing flexibility in zoning, which can lead to inefficiency during reduced loads like weekends.

NCARB PPD guidelines emphasize mechanical system design that optimizes equipment placement to balance energy efficiency,

occupant comfort, and system flexibility.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, HVAC System Design

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Mechanical Equipment Layout

NEW QUESTION # 30

An architect is designing a mixed-use building and must provide fire separation between the various use types.

Which properties must be considered to meet the fire separation requirements? Check the three that apply.

- A. Length of exit corridor
- B. Air changes per hour
- C. Occupancy type
- D. Wall assembly materials
- E. Wall to structure connection
- F. Orientation of building

Answer: C,D,E

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

To meet fire separation requirements, the following must be considered:

Occupancy type (B): Different uses have different fire hazard classifications influencing separation.

Wall assembly materials (D): Materials define fire resistance ratings.

Wall to structure connection (A): Proper connection maintains fire separation integrity.

Air changes (C) relate to ventilation, not separation.

Exit corridor length (E) and building orientation (F) affect egress and solar exposure, not fire separation.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations, Fire Separation

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Fire-Resistive Construction

NEW QUESTION # 31

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