

# NCARB's PDD Exam Questions Guarantee 100% Success on Your First Try

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## PDD Final Study Exam Questions 2024/2025 with 100% CORRECT Answers

Therefore, my biggest piece of advice is spend the majority of your time (I mean literally like 75% - 100%) just relentlessly taking practice questions.

I personally like both Designer Hacks and Brightwood Architecture question banks.

Yes you end up repeating questions sometimes as they get shuffled in but that is okay.

Everytime you get a question wrong spend the time figuring out why. Sometimes you may take a lucky guess and get it right - be sure to find out why.

Everytime you see a term or anything you do not recognize in the question or any of the answers spend time looking it up.

When I retook PPD using this mentality I spent two weeks taking anywhere from 50 - 150 practice questions a day and passed feeling really good about my answers throughout the test. - ANSWERS • Building Construction Illustrated, Francis Ching. This book is pure gold, and should be read cover to cover by anyone taking the exams. It's comprehensive, thorough, beautifully illustrated, easy to follow, and a godsend if you are a visual learner.

• The Amber Book. Right now they only have the 4.0 Building Systems book out (practice exam is saved in our resources and I highly recommend going through those questions), but they are putting a 5.0 book out soon.

Once they do, this will probably supercede Ballast in terms of best foundation study guide.

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## NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Sample Questions (Q37-Q42):

### NEW QUESTION # 37

The client requests to limit daylighting in a second-story bedroom located in the northeast corner of a new house, especially in the mornings. The architect is considering options for the windows in terms of quantity, size, type, and location, and notes that emergency escape and rescue openings must provide a minimum clear opening of 5.7 square feet.

- A. One 3' x 5' double-hung window on the north wall
- B. Three 2' x 2' awning windows on the east wall
- C. One 4' x 4' fixed window on the north wall
- D. Two 3' x 2' casement windows on the east wall

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Emergency egress requires minimum 5.7 sq ft clear opening (net).

Double-hung windows' clear opening is about half the sash area. A 3'x5' nominal size gives  $3 \times 2.5 = 7.5$  sq ft gross, ~6.25 sq ft clear # meets code.

North wall placement minimizes direct morning sunlight (vs. east wall).

A: 2'x2' awning # too small and awnings don't count for egress in most cases.

B: Fixed windows do not meet egress operability requirements.

C: Two 3'x2' casements on east wall # each only 6 sq ft gross, and east wall gets morning sun, opposite client's goal.

PDD Reference: IBC §1030 Emergency Escape and Rescue; ARE 5.0 PDD "Code compliance-Daylighting control & egress."

### NEW QUESTION # 38

Refer to the exhibit.

For a plywood panel carrying the grade stamp shown, which of the following is the maximum recommended span for use in a floor system?

- A. 15 in
- B. 32 in
- C. 16 in
- D. 108 in

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

1. Understanding the APA Grade Stamp

The stamp in the exhibit reads:

\* APA RATED SHEATHING 32/16

\* 15/32 INCH (thickness)

\* SIZED FOR SPACING

\* EXPOSURE 1 (can handle temporary moisture exposure)

2. Meaning of "32/16"

The numbers 32/16 are the span ratings for the panel:

\* 32 inches = maximum recommended span for roof sheathing (when applied perpendicular to supports).

\* 16 inches = maximum recommended span for floor sheathing (when applied perpendicular to supports).

These ratings are established by APA (The Engineered Wood Association) based on panel thickness, grade, and allowable loads/deflection limits.

3. Applying to the Question

The question asks specifically for maximum recommended span for use in a floor system.

From the stamp:

\* Floor span rating = 16 inches

\* Therefore, the correct answer is 16 in.

4. Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

\* A. 15 in - Not the value given; 16 in is the rating.

- \* C. 32 in - This is for roof applications, not floor systems.
  - \* D. 108 in - Not related to APA span ratings; possibly confused with the certification number "NBR-108."
5. NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD Study Guide References:
- \* Content Area: Building Materials & Assemblies - Wood Products
  - \* Reference Sources:
  - \* APA - The Engineered Wood Association: Panel Span Ratings Guide
  - \* Building Construction Illustrated (Ching) - Plywood and OSB Panel Markings
  - \* IBC Chapter 23 - Wood span and application requirements

#### NEW QUESTION # 39

The architect has completed 60% of the construction documents. The owner wants to establish the guaranteed maximum price (GMP) at this point before 100% of the construction documents are complete. Several flooring finish items are still undetermined. What should be included in the project manual to make sure the contractor has a cost to cover all finishes?

- A. Schedule of flooring unit prices to be completed by the contractor
- B. Alternate to change broadloom carpet to carpet tile
- C. Allowance of \$30/sq. yd. for floor finishes
- D. Contingency of 10% added to the overall construction cost

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

When a GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price) is established before the design is 100% complete and specific materials are not yet chosen, the correct approach is to specify allowances in the project manual.

An allowance is a fixed monetary amount for a specific scope item (e.g., flooring finishes) that allows the contractor to carry a cost in the bid/GMP until the actual product is selected. This ensures the GMP covers the item without delaying pricing.

A). Contingency - Is for unforeseen conditions, not specific unselected finishes.

B). Schedule of unit prices - Typically used for variable-quantity work, not for unknown product selection.

D). Alternate - Provides an option for substitution, but does not guarantee a base cost in the GMP.

PDD Reference: ARE 5.0 PDD "Project Manual and Specifications-Allowances, Alternates, and Unit Prices," AIA A201 §3.8, CSI Division 01-General Requirements.

#### NEW QUESTION # 40

In an air-conditioned space in a tropical environment, roof insulation is being applied above a structural deck. In order to avoid problems related to condensation, where should the vapor barrier be installed?

- A. Above the insulation
- B. Below the structural deck
- C. Below the ceiling
- D. Below the insulation

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

In a tropical climate, the interior is cooler and drier than the hot, humid exterior. The vapor drive is from outside to inside, so the vapor retarder must be installed on the warm/moist side of the assembly, which is below the insulation when the insulation is above the roof deck. This prevents moist exterior air from reaching cooler surfaces inside the insulation where condensation could occur.

PDD Reference: Psychrometrics & vapor drive principles, PDD "Thermal & Moisture Protection-Placement of vapor barriers," ASHRAE Handbook recommendations.

#### NEW QUESTION # 41

In which of the following locations in concrete masonry should a control joint be placed?

- A. In the center of window openings
- B. At changes in wall height
- C. At the first course of masonry walls

- D. At each corner of the foundation wall

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Control joints in concrete masonry walls are designed to accommodate movement caused by thermal expansion, moisture changes, and settlement.

Control joints should be placed at locations of stress concentration, such as changes in wall height, changes in wall thickness, or at large wall expanses.

They are not placed at the first course of masonry (which is typically reinforced and anchored to the foundation).

They are generally not placed at window corners or in the center of window openings but rather at planned intervals or changes in geometry.

Placing a control joint at changes in wall height allows movement without cracking.

References:

NCARB ARE 5.0 Review Manual, Materials and Assemblies chapter

Masonry design and control joint placement per ASTM standards

Masonry construction manuals (e.g., NCMA TEK)

## NEW QUESTION # 42

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