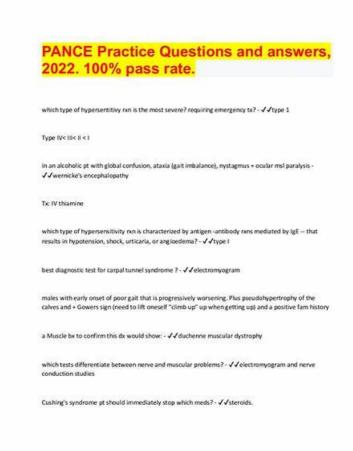
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NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	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 2	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 3	 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 4	 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.
Topic 5	 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.

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NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q44-Q49):

NEW QUESTION #44

The use of a central computer system to monitor a building's heating and cooling demands will do which one of the following?

- A. Eliminate the use of a facility manager
- B. Be primarily for solar-heating and natural-cooling systems
- C. Interactively select the least energy-intensive system or combination of systems
- D. Increase the cost of energy consumption

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Central building automation systems (BAS) monitor and control HVAC and other systems to optimize energy efficiency by selecting the best combination of available systems and adjusting operation based on demand and conditions. This reduces energy consumption and operational costs.

BAS does not eliminate the need for facility managers (A), who oversee broader operations.

It aims to reduce, not increase, energy costs (C).

BAS is applicable to all mechanical systems, not limited to solar or natural cooling (D).

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, Building Automation

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

NEW QUESTION #45

Which of the following are characteristics of heavy-timber construction? Check the four that apply.

- A. Suitability to create unusual layouts or irregular forms
- B. Fire resistance
- C. Susceptibility to rot
- D. Presence of sapwood to prevent insect damage
- E. Relatively rapid on-site erection times
- F. Susceptibility to differential shrinkage

Answer: B,C,E,F

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Heavy timber construction is characterized by:

Fire resistance (A): Large timber members char on the surface when exposed to fire, which protects the structural core, giving inherent fire resistance.

Susceptibility to differential shrinkage (C): Heavy timber elements can shrink unevenly, potentially causing joints or connections to loosen.

Relatively rapid on-site erection times (D): Pre-fabricated heavy timber elements are large and can be quickly erected compared to traditional framing.

Susceptibility to rot (E): Without proper detailing and protection, timber can decay due to moisture exposure.

Unsuitable for unusual layouts or irregular forms (B): Heavy timber tends to be more rigid and better suited for regular layouts.

Presence of sapwood (F): Sapwood is generally more susceptible to insect attack; durable heartwood is preferred to resist insects.

ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, Heavy Timber Construction The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Wood Construction

NEW QUESTION #46

An architect is working with a developer to determine which of three available sites should be the preferred location for a new office building that will primarily utilize passive energy systems. All three sites are located in a cold, northern climate with winter winds predominantly from the north and west.

Site descriptions:

Site A: Located at the top of a hill; small vegetation and brush; expansive views in all directions.

Site B: Located along a river; heavily wooded area on the north side; coniferous trees shading the southern face of the building.

Site C: Located on a rocky, south-facing slope; wooded on the eastern edge; native grasses on southern boundary.

Primary goal: maximize solar energy potential while maintaining winter wind protection.

Which site should be selected?

- A. Site A
- B. Site C
- C. Site B

Answer: B

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Site C offers a south-facing slope, which maximizes solar exposure-crucial in cold climates for passive solar heating. The wooded eastern edge provides wind protection from cold morning winds, and native grasses on the south reduce erosion while minimally shading.

Site A, on a hilltop with sparse vegetation, lacks wind protection.

Site B has coniferous trees shading the southern face, reducing solar gain, which is counterproductive for passive solar design. Thus, Site C optimizes both solar potential and wind protection.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Passive Solar Design The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Sustainable Site Planning

NEW QUESTION #47

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. 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.
- 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. 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.
- D. 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.

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

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- * IBC Excerpts, showing relevant code sections
- * ADA Excerpts, showing relevant sections from the ADA Standards for Accessible Design The developer decides that the 4-inch terra cotta exterior veneer is too expensive, and wants to replace the terra cotta with an alternative finish in its entirety.

Which of the following alternative materials should the architect suggest to reduce cost and meet the Planned Development

Document requirements? Check the two that apply.

- A. Artisan Brick
- B. Cultured Stone
- C. Low Priced Stone
- D. Earth Tone EIFS
- E. Standard Brick
- F. Metal Panels (Fluoropolymer finish)

Answer: D,E

Explanation:

To reduce costs while complying with Planned Development (PD) document restrictions on exterior finishes, the architect should select materials that are less expensive than terra cotta yet meet aesthetic and code requirements:

Standard brick (C) is a cost-effective, durable alternative with broad acceptance.

Earth tone EIFS (E) (Exterior Insulation and Finish System) offers an economical and versatile finish that can replicate various textures and colors while reducing costs.

Low priced stone (A) and cultured stone (B) may still be costly or not permitted per PD document.

Artisan brick (D) and metal panels (F) may exceed allowed percentages or not fit aesthetic guidelines.

References:

Planned Development Document

ARE 5.0 PPD - Project Integration of Program and Systems

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Exterior Finishes

NEW QUESTION #49

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