Exam PDD Demo - 2026 First-grade PDD: Pass4sure ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Pass Guide

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NCARB PDD Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• Construction Documentation: This section of the exam measures skills of Project Architects and addresses the creation and management of project documentation. Candidates are expected to demonstrate knowledge of documenting building design and site features, preparing detailed architectural drawings, and applying industry standards to produce a coordinated set of construction documents. The section also includes understanding how project changes impact documentation and how to communicate these updates effectively to both the design team and the client.:
Topic 2	• Project Manual & Specifications: This section of the exam measures the skills of Specifications Writers and emphasizes the importance of developing documentation that goes beyond drawings. Candidates must understand how to identify and prioritize elements needed to prepare, maintain, and refine both the project manual and project specifications. It also assesses the ability to align and coordinate these specifications with the construction documents to ensure consistency and accuracy.
Topic 3	• Codes & Regulations: This section of the exam measures skills of Building Code Specialists and examines how codes and regulations apply at a detailed level during documentation. Candidates are expected to demonstrate knowledge of compliance with the International Building Code (IBC) as well as other specialty regulations, as well as how to interpret and apply these standards to ensure design and documentation meet legal and safety requirements.
Topic 4	• Construction Cost: This section of the exam measures the skills of Construction Managers and focuses on the financial side of project execution. It evaluates the ability to analyze construction cost estimates to confirm that they align with project design intent and budgetary constraints. Although this is the smallest section, it is critical for ensuring projects remain feasible and economically viable.

Topic 5	• Integration of Building Materials & Systems: This section of the exam measures the skills of Architectural Designers and focuses on the ability to resolve and integrate various building systems into cohesive project goals. It covers analyzing architectural systems and technologies, determining the size of structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, and incorporating specialty systems such as acoustics, lighting, security, and communications. It also evaluates the ability to detail how multiple building systems work together and to coordinate across disciplines to achieve a unified design.

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NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Sample Questions (Q31-Q36):

NEW QUESTION # 31
Which of the following methods of mortar joint finishing has the greatest weatherability?

- A. Extruded
- B. Weathered
- C. Concave
- D. Raked

Answer: C

Explanation:
Mortar joint finishes impact water resistance and weatherability:
Concave joint is the most weather-resistant. The joint is compressed and curved inward, forming a dense, compact surface that sheds water effectively.
Weathered joint slopes outward but is less compact than concave.
Raked joint is recessed and can hold water, less weather-resistant.
Extruded joint protrudes and tends to trap water and dirt.
Therefore, concave joints provide the best weather protection.
Reference:
NCARB ARE 5.0 Review Manual, Materials and Assemblies chapter
Masonry construction standards and detailing guides

NEW QUESTION # 32
In a brick veneer wall, what is the primary purpose of the 2-inch air space between the back of the brick and the sheathing?

- A. To meet the minimum R-value
- B. Provide space for roof drain piping
- C. Allow for differential movement
- D. Minimize mortar bridging

Answer: D

Explanation:
Purpose of the Air Space in Brick Veneer Walls
In a typical brick veneer cavity wall assembly, there is an air space between the back side of the brick and the sheathing (or water-

resistive barrier) of the structural wall. This space is typically 1 to 2 inches wide and serves several critical functions:
* Moisture Drainage and Ventilation
* Rainwater can penetrate brick veneer through joints and cracks.
* The air cavity allows water to drain down the back of the veneer to flashing and out through weep holes.
* It also provides ventilation to help dry out the wall assembly.
* Minimizing Mortar Bridging
* During construction, mortar can drop down into the cavity from bricklaying.
* If mortar bridges across to the sheathing, it can create a path for moisture to move into the structure.
* The 2-inch cavity helps reduce the chance that mortar droppings will fully bridge the gap, ensuring the drainage plane stays functional.
Why Other Options Are Incorrect:
* A. To meet the minimum R-value - The air space in brick veneer is not designed as insulation; its thermal benefit is minimal compared to continuous insulation layers.
* B. Allow for differential movement - Brick veneer differential movement is accommodated by wall ties and control joints, not by the air cavity.
* C. Provide space for roof drain piping - Roof drainage piping is routed separately and is not part of the brick veneer cavity design.
NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD Study Guide References:
* Content Area: Building Envelope Systems - Masonry Wall Assemblies
* Source References:
* Building Construction Illustrated (Ching) - Brick Veneer Wall Sections and Cavity Function
* Architectural Graphic Standards - Masonry Veneer Construction Details
* BIA (Brick Industry Association) Technical Notes 21 & 21A - Cavity Wall Design and Construction Key Principle:
A 2-inch air cavity behind brick veneer is primarily to ensure proper drainage and to minimize mortar bridging, which would otherwise allow moisture intrusion into the building.

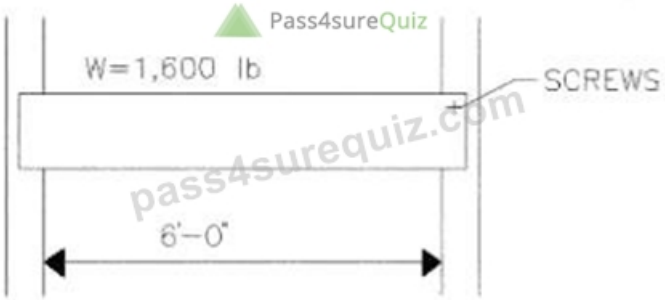
NEW QUESTION # 33
In an air-conditioned space in a tropical environment, roof insulation is being applied above a structural deck.
In order to avoid problems related to condensation, where should the vapor barrier be installed?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:
In a tropical climate, the interior is cooler and drier than the hot, humid exterior. The vapor drive is from outside # 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 # 34



Refer to the exhibit.
Using metal stud framing, how many screws per stud are needed to connect the header if each screw is rated at 440 pounds for shear and 215 pounds for tension?

- A. 0

- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 3

Answer: A

Explanation:
Given:
Load (W) = 1,600 lb
Screw shear capacity = 440 lb per screw
Screw tension capacity = 215 lb per screw
Assuming worst case is shear capacity (usually governs):
Calculate screws required:

$$\text{Number of screws} = \frac{\text{Load}}{\text{Screw capacity}} = \frac{1,600}{440} \approx 3.64$$

Since you cannot have a fraction of a screw, round up to the next whole number, **4 screws.**

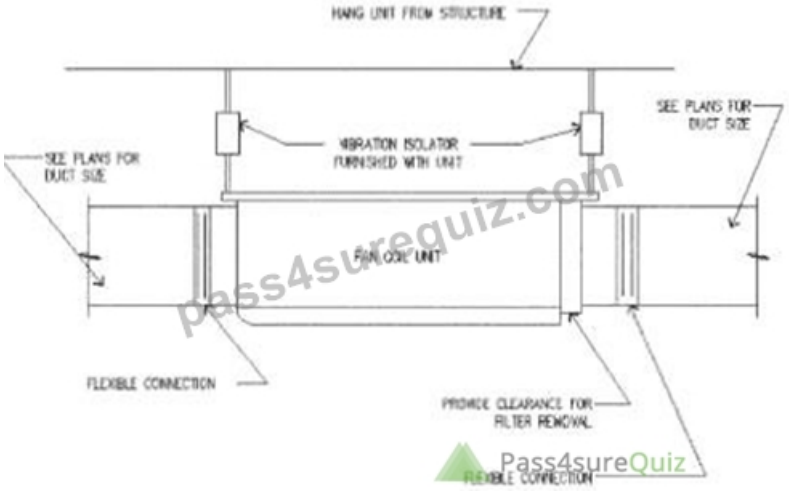
However, tension capacity is lower at 215 lb, so check if tension governs:

$$\frac{1,600}{215} \approx 7.44$$

If tension applies, 8 screws needed.

If tension applies, 8 screws needed.
But typically, shear governs for header connection; since question likely focuses on shear, 4 screws would be safest.
If question expects minimal number to resist both, 8 screws would be correct.
Final answer: 4 screws (Option C) if shear governs; if considering tension also, 8 screws (Option D).
Since the question is ambiguous, and shear usually controls, C. 4 screws is appropriate.
Reference:
NCARB ARE 5.0 Review Manual, Structural Systems chapter
Metal stud framing connection design standards

NEW QUESTION # 35



Refer to the exhibit.
What is the purpose of the flexible connection in the fan coil shown?

- A. To transition from the fan coil unit flange to the desired duct size
- B. To insulate against heat transfer from the fan coil unit
- C. To provide a field point of connection of the ductwork to the fan coil unit
- D. To minimize sound transfer

Answer: D

Explanation:

Understanding the Diagram
The detail shows a fan coil unit suspended from the structure, with:
* Vibration isolators at the hanging rods to limit mechanical vibration transfer to the structure.
* Flexible duct connections between the fan coil unit and the rigid ductwork.
Purpose of Flexible Duct Connections
Flexible connections in HVAC duct systems are designed to:
* Prevent transmission of vibration and sound from the mechanical equipment (fan coil unit) into the rigid ductwork and building.
* Compensate for small misalignments between the ductwork and equipment.
* Accommodate minor thermal expansion/contraction movements.
Key Function in This Context:
Fan coil units contain fans that create vibration and noise. Without a flexible connection, this vibration would travel directly through the rigid ductwork into occupied spaces, increasing noise levels.
Why Other Options Are Incorrect:
* A. To provide a field point of connection - While the flexible connector does connect ducts, its purpose is not just convenience; it is specifically for vibration/sound isolation.
* B. To insulate against heat transfer - This is done with thermal duct insulation, not flexible connectors.
* D. To transition from flange to desired duct size - Transitions are made using sheet metal fittings, not flexible connectors.
NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD Study Guide References:
* Content Area: Integration of Building Materials & Systems - Mechanical Systems and Acoustics
* Sources:
* Mechanical and Electrical Equipment for Buildings (MEEB) - Vibration Control in Mechanical Systems
* Architectural Graphic Standards - Flexible Duct Connections for Noise and Vibration Isolation
* ASHRAE Handbook - HVAC Applications, Chapter on Sound and Vibration Control Key Point:
Flexible connectors in ductwork break the direct mechanical path for vibration and sound, reducing noise transfer from fans to occupied areas.

NEW QUESTION # 36
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