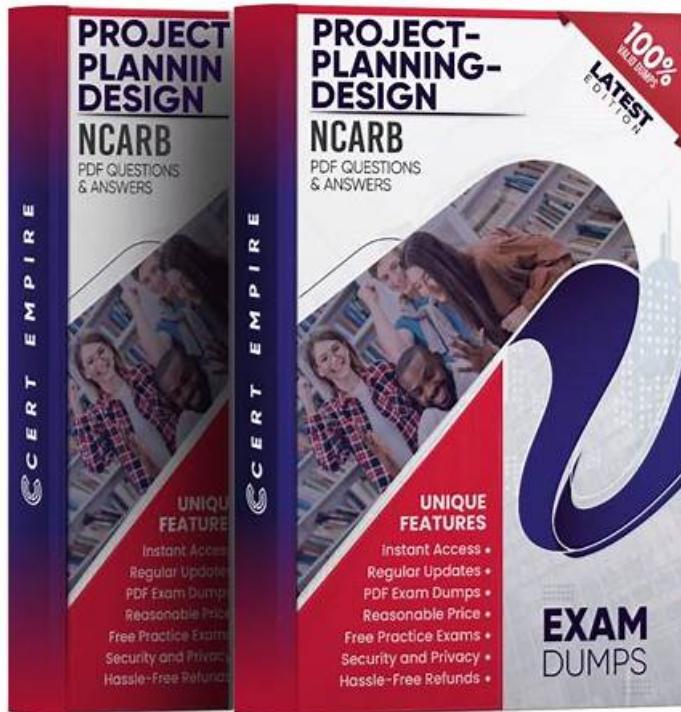


# 100% Pass 2026 NCARB Project-Planning-Design Unparalleled Practice Mock



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## NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Codes &amp; 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.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Environmental Conditions &amp; 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.</li></ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Building Systems, Materials, &amp; 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.</li></ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Project Integration of Program &amp; 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.</li></ul>

Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Costs &amp; 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.</li> </ul>
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### **NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q59-Q64):**

#### **NEW QUESTION # 59**

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 produce approximately 95.5 kW during peak sun conditions.

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

**Answer: A,B,C**

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 ( $273 \times 350 \text{ W} \# 95.5 \text{ kW}$ ).

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 # 60

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

- A. 1st Grade Classrooms
- B. 5th Grade Classrooms
- C. Kindergarten Classrooms
- D. 3rd Grade Classrooms

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

According to IBC and egress requirements, kindergarten classrooms often have more stringent egress requirements than higher grades due to the younger occupant population, who require faster and easier exit options in emergencies. This often translates into requirements for additional or wider exit doors to ensure safe, quick evacuation.

Older grades (1st, 3rd, 5th) typically have less restrictive egress door requirements.

Code mandates consider occupant age and ability to evacuate efficiently.

Thus, kindergarten classrooms should be flagged for additional doors if not already provided.

References:

IBC Chapter 10 - Means of Egress, Occupant Load and Egress Requirements ADA Standards for Accessible Design ARE 5.0

PPD - Codes and Regulations

### NEW QUESTION # 61

A multistory warehouse is to be converted into a high-tech office building. The owners propose a variety of services and flexibility to tenants, including cable/internet, fiber optic communications, dish/satellite, and security systems.

In order to accommodate this broad array of electronic and communications services, the architect should recommend which of the following electrical and communications distribution systems?

- A. Flat cable wiring system
- B. Cellular deck system
- C. Poke-through system
- D. Raised access floor system

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

A raised access floor system provides a flexible, accessible space beneath the finished floor for routing power, data, telecommunications, and security cables. It facilitates easy reconfiguration and tenant fit-out modifications without major disruption.

Poke-through systems (A) provide limited point access for power/data and are less flexible for extensive rewiring.

Cellular deck systems (B) are structural components, not distribution systems.

Flat cable wiring (D) is a wiring method but does not provide the physical infrastructure for flexibility.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, Electrical and Communications Systems The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Data and Power Distribution

### NEW QUESTION # 62

□ Refer to the exhibit (building with wind impacting wall A, and openings shown).

For the building subjected to wind as shown, the design pressure acting on the interior face of wall A would be what?

- A. Acting toward wall A only
- B. Acting both toward and away from wall A
- C. Acting away from wall A only
- D. Zero

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

With openings allowing wind passage, pressure on the interior of wall A varies:

Wind pressure on the windward side induces positive pressure toward wall A.

Wind entering openings can create localized negative pressure (suction) on the interior surface, acting away from wall A.

Thus, the interior face experiences both positive and negative pressures depending on location and airflow, meaning D. Acting both toward and away from wall A is correct.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Wind Loads on Building Enclosures The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Building Envelope Design

### NEW QUESTION # 63

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 solutions best addresses the client's concerns related to building orientation, vehicular circulation, and future expansion?

- A. Cluster patient and emergency vehicle access on the northwest facade with the main entrance adjacent, position staff and service access on the northeast, and minimize the pedestrian plaza to maximize parking area.
- B. Locate all vehicular traffic access on one side of the site to simplify circulation and position the main entrance on the southeast facade facing the highway for maximum visibility.
- C. Position the main entrance on the northeast facade to align with future Phase 2 development, route all vehicular traffic through a centralized loop road, and locate service equipment behind the building without screening to reduce costs.
- D. **Separate vehicular traffic by type with dedicated access points, place the main entrance facing northwest toward parking for convenient access, and locate service equipment on the southeast facade screened as per PD requirements.**

#### Answer: D

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

The design must balance client priorities, regulatory requirements, and site conditions:

- \* **Vehicular Circulation:** Separating traffic flows by function reduces conflicts and improves safety- patients, staff, deliveries, and emergency vehicles each require distinct circulation paths.
- \* **Building Orientation:** The main entrance facing northwest towards parking prioritizes user convenience, even if this orientation has less highway visibility. The southeast facade, visible from the highway, is dedicated to service equipment screened per PD document restrictions.
- \* **Pedestrian Plaza:** Providing a pedestrian plaza connected to mixed-use development sidewalks, with bicycle parking and bus stop, aligns with site accessibility and transit integration goals.
- \* **Future Expansion:** Positioning the site elements to accommodate Phase 2 on the adjacent southwest vacant site facilitates growth without major disruption.
- \* **Screening and Material Use:** Service equipment screening and adherence to PD exterior material percentages maintain design compliance.
- \* **Acoustical Privacy:** The layout supports departmental adjacency and separation for privacy, crucial in healthcare design.
- \* **Option B** best addresses these concerns and reflects the project's functional, regulatory, and contextual needs as outlined in NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Integration and Site Planning content.

References:

ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design Content Outline: Project Integration of Program and Systems - Site Planning and Circulation  
City-approved Planned Development Document ADA Standards for Accessible Design The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapters 6 and 7 on Site Design and Program Integration

## NEW QUESTION # 64

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