

# PDD Test Torrent: ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam & PDD Actual Exam & ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Pass for Sure



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## NCARB PDD Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Integration of Building Materials &amp; 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.</li></ul>

Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Construction Cost:</b> 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.</li> </ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Construction Documentation:</b> 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.:</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project Manual &amp; Specifications:</b> 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.</li> </ul>
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Codes &amp; Regulations:</b> 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.</li> </ul>

## NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Sample Questions (Q27-Q32):

### NEW QUESTION # 27

During the documentation of an office building, the owner requests a fitness center amenity be added to the scope. The mechanical engineer informs the architect that the mechanical unit currently located on a utility mezzanine will need to increase in size to accommodate the required increased capacity.

Who should the architect confirm with that the larger unit will work in this location?

- A. Structural engineer
- B. Accessibility consultant
- C. Authority having jurisdiction
- D. Building owner

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

When the mechanical unit on a utility mezzanine increases in size:

The structural engineer must confirm the mezzanine can support the increased weight and dynamic loads of the larger unit.

The architect coordinates with the structural engineer to ensure structural integrity.

The building owner is informed but not responsible for technical assessment.

The authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) oversees code compliance but not structural verification.

Accessibility consultant deals with accessibility issues, not mechanical equipment sizing.

Reference:

NCARB ARE 5.0 Review Manual, Project Development and Documentation chapter Building systems coordination and structural integration

### NEW QUESTION # 28

A project located in a rural area without municipal sewer access will most likely require:

- A. Ejector pump
- B. Septic tank and leach field
- C. Grease interceptor

- D. Oil-water separator

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Where no public sewer is available, on-site wastewater treatment (septic tank + leach field) is required. This supports Objective 3.2, considering utility systems and site limitations.

#### NEW QUESTION # 29

Refer to the exhibit.

In the curtain wall systems shown, each of the aluminum mullions is designed to allow for which of the following?

- A. Vertical expansion
- B. Capillary action
- C. Surface tension
- D. Horizontal expansion

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

##### 1. Understanding the Diagram

The three sections in the exhibit show different curtain wall mullion profiles (vertical and horizontal sections) designed for glazing systems.

In curtain wall design, aluminum mullions must accommodate:

- \* Structural loads (wind, dead load of glass, seismic)
- \* Thermal expansion and contraction of metal members
- \* Building movement (floor-to-floor deflection, live load, creep, seismic drift)

##### 2. Why Vertical Expansion is Relevant

\* The vertical mullions in curtain wall systems span multiple floors and are typically anchored at one end and allowed to float/slip at the other end to accommodate vertical building movement.

\* Movement can be due to:

- \* Thermal expansion of aluminum mullions (aluminum has a high coefficient of thermal expansion).
- \* Inter-story drift from lateral loads.
- \* Floor live-load deflection.
- \* The mullion joinery and connections at the anchors are specifically detailed to allow vertical sliding while maintaining weather seals.

##### 3. Why Other Options Are Incorrect

\* A. Capillary action - This refers to water movement in small spaces; curtain walls are designed with weeps and pressure-equalized cavities to prevent it, but that is not what the mullion's slip connections are for.

\* B. Horizontal expansion - Horizontal movement is generally handled at horizontal mullions /transoms or gasket joints, not the vertical mullion extrusion as shown.

\* D. Surface tension - Refers to water behavior, not a structural or thermal movement design issue.

##### 4. NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD Study Guide References

\* Content Area: Building Envelope Systems - Curtain Wall Detailing

\* Key Sources:

- \* Architectural Graphic Standards - Curtain wall movement joints
- \* Building Construction Illustrated (Ching) - Curtain wall expansion and anchoring details
- \* AAMA (American Architectural Manufacturers Association) Curtain Wall Design Guide - Section on thermal movement and inter-story drift

#### NEW QUESTION # 30

Which of the following metals is best suited for embedments in concrete or masonry?

- A. Bronze
- B. Stainless steel
- C. Aluminum
- D. Cast iron

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

When metals are embedded in concrete or masonry, corrosion resistance is a critical factor due to the alkaline environment and potential moisture exposure.

Stainless steel has excellent corrosion resistance, making it ideal for embedments in concrete or masonry where long-term durability is required.

Bronze is corrosion-resistant but typically used for decorative or hardware applications, not structural embedments.

Aluminum corrodes readily in alkaline concrete environments and is not suitable for embedments without protective coatings.

Cast iron is susceptible to rust and corrosion in moist conditions and is generally avoided for embedded components.

Thus, stainless steel is best suited for durability and corrosion resistance in concrete/masonry embedments.

References:

NCARB ARE 5.0 Review Manual, Materials and Assemblies chapter

Building construction materials standards (ACI, ASTM) on metals in concrete Corrosion resistance guides for metals embedded in concrete

### NEW QUESTION # 31

Refer to the exhibit.

Construction document drawings are in the final review stages. The architect needs to coordinate the casework detail with the probable cost estimate.

Click on the drawing note in the casework section that does not align with the cost estimate.

**Answer:**

Explanation:

Explanation:

In the casework section drawing provided, the detail that likely does not align with the cost estimate is the note:

"PLASTIC LAMINATE COUNTERTOP AND BACKSPLASH"

This is often a higher-cost item compared to alternatives like post-formed countertops, solid surface over MDF, or budget composite finishes. If the project is under cost pressure, specifying both a plastic laminate countertop and a separate laminate backsplash can increase material and labor costs due to custom fabrication and edge treatments.

### NEW QUESTION # 32

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