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

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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 2	<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 3	<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 4	<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>
Topic 5	<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>

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### NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q36-Q41):

#### NEW QUESTION # 36

The testing center on the second floor requires a private restroom for testing candidates to use. The architect needs to locate a single toilet restroom in the area that will have the least impact on the existing programming.

Click on the area in the plan where the restroom should be located.

#### Answer:

Explanation:

□ Explanation:

- \* Locating the restroom in the existing small office space minimizes disruption to testing center programming and circulation.
- \* This space is adjacent to the testing area, providing convenient access for testing candidates while maintaining privacy.
- \* Repurposing an existing small room avoids reducing seating capacity or requiring major reconfiguration of the larger testing or hallway areas.
- \* The location is near existing plumbing walls (bathrooms and mechanical rooms in the lower part of the plan), which reduces construction complexity and cost.

This approach aligns with NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design content emphasizing efficient space utilization, minimal disruption, and adjacency for functional support spaces in program layouts.

#### NEW QUESTION # 37

Program requirements for a hospital with a clear span of 70 feet include minimal disruption of the hospital routine for future mechanical and electrical repairs and alterations and a maximum economical flexibility of the structure.

Which of the following structural systems is most appropriate?

- A. Composite floor beams
- B. Precast concrete planks
- C. Interstitial trusses
- D. Plate girders

#### Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Interstitial trusses provide a structural space between floors specifically designed for mechanical and electrical systems, allowing future repairs and alterations without disrupting hospital routines. This system supports large spans and offers flexible layouts, aligning well with the hospital's needs.

Plate girders (B) and composite beams (C) do not inherently provide interstitial spaces and can limit flexibility.

Precast concrete planks (D) are durable but limit access to mechanical systems, increasing disruption during maintenance.

Therefore, interstitial trusses best support minimal disruption and structural flexibility.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Structural Systems for Healthcare

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### NEW QUESTION # 38

A new four-story apartment building is being designed on a site that has solid bedrock subsurface conditions. The client requested the lowest cost of installation, highest energy efficiency, the shortest round trip time, and minimized loss of usable building space. Which elevator type should the architect recommend?

- A. Dual jack hole-less hydraulic elevator
- B. Conventional hydraulic elevator
- C. Gearless traction elevator
- **D. Machine-roomless elevator**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Given the constraints:

Lowest cost of installation and minimized loss of usable space favor elevators that don't require a separate machine room.

Machine-roomless elevators (D) have compact machinery integrated within the hoistway, reducing space needs and construction costs.

Hydraulic elevators (A, C) require pits and often larger machine rooms, and are less energy efficient and have slower round trip times compared to traction types.

Gearless traction elevators (B) provide excellent speed and efficiency but usually require machine rooms, increasing cost and space. Thus, machine-roomless elevators balance cost, efficiency, space, and speed best for mid-rise residential buildings.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, Vertical Transportation

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Elevators and Conveying Systems

### NEW QUESTION # 39

When considering the IBC requirements, an architect can increase the number of options from which to select structural materials for an office building by doing which one of the following?

- **A. Limiting the area of the building**
- B. Omitting 2-hour fire ratings
- C. Increasing the occupant capacity
- D. Increasing the efficiency ratio

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Limiting the building area within allowable maximums based on occupancy and type increases the range of acceptable structural materials because larger buildings have stricter fire and structural requirements.

Increasing occupant capacity (A) increases code stringency.

Increasing efficiency ratio (B) is not an IBC classification.

Omitting 2-hour fire ratings (D) is not permitted and would reduce material options.

Thus, reducing building area allows more flexibility in structural material choices under IBC.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations, Building Materials and Fire Ratings The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Building Codes

### NEW QUESTION # 40

Comprehensive recycling of materials from building demolition is primarily limited by which one of the following?

- A. Technical difficulties of recycling more than 20% of demolition material
- **B. Relatively high labor costs compared to cost of raw materials**
- C. Difficulty associated with specifying recycling requirements
- D. Lack of market for some recycled materials such as concrete and steel

**Answer: B**



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