NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Papers Exam | Project-Planning-Design: ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD)–100% free

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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	• 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 4	• 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.

Topic 5	• 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.

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NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q26-Q31):

NEW QUESTION # 26
Click on the area of the concrete beam elevation where steel reinforcing will most improve the beam's span capability.

Answer:

Explanation:

NEW QUESTION # 27
A new gallery is being built and requires shading elements to protect the light-sensitive artwork on display.
Which of the following are design criteria relevant to the design of shading components on the west facade of the new gallery?
Check the three that apply.

- A. Low-E glazing on the west facade
- B. Survey of adjacent building heights
- C. Height of the west gallery wall
- D. Solar Heat Gain Coefficient of the west glazing
- E. Spacing and depth of vertical louvers
- F. Annual temperature data

Answer: C,D,E

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
For shading design on west facades:
Height of the wall (A): Determines the scale and proportion of shading devices.
Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) of glazing (C): Influences how much solar radiation passes through windows.
Spacing and depth of vertical louvers (D): Controls shading effectiveness against low-angle afternoon sun.
Low-E glazing (E) helps but is glazing performance, not shading design.
Annual temperature (B) is climatic but less directly relevant.
Adjacent building heights (F) influence shading from surroundings but are secondary.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Solar Control
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Sustainable Design

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NEW QUESTION # 28

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 When the addition is completed, the school will be fully sprinkled per NFPA 13 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems requirements, with a continuous 24-foot wide fire access lane provided around the building perimeter.
Through a code analysis, the combination of construction type, occupancy, and building area present a compliance problem.

- A. Check frontage area increase
- B. Add firewall to design
- C. Reduce building area

Answer: A

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
When a building's size and occupancy cause non-compliance with allowable building area or frontage requirements, the architect should first check frontage area increase provisions allowed by the code. The frontage increase can allow a larger building area based on the length of street frontage and fire access, especially when sprinklers and fire lanes are provided.
Adding firewalls (A) is a method to subdivide building area but is typically considered after exploring frontage increases.
Reducing building area (C) is a last resort if other allowances are insufficient.
Therefore, the architect should first verify if frontage area increases resolve the compliance issue.
References:
IBC Chapter 5 - Building Area and Height Limits
NFPA 13 - Sprinkler System Requirements
ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations

NEW QUESTION # 29
Which of the following strategies is most appropriate for a new shopping center to be constructed on a nearly flat site flowing into a municipal subsurface storm-drainage system that is at capacity during a 5-year storm?

- A. Conducting all site drainage along the curbs of service streets
- B. Grading roads, locating buildings, and sizing culverts to create retention basins
- C. Extending the storm sewers to catch basins in all roads and drives in the development
- D. Sectioning, sizing, and pitching drainage ways, culverts, and basins to reduce runoff time

Answer: B

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

When the municipal storm-drain system is at capacity during frequent storms, site design must incorporate on- site stormwater management to reduce runoff and delay peak flows.
Option B is the most effective strategy: grading the site and positioning buildings and infrastructure to create retention basins allows water to be temporarily stored on site, reducing the volume and rate of runoff entering the municipal system. This also aids in groundwater recharge and helps comply with stormwater management regulations.
Extending storm sewers (A) without capacity improvements only increases burden on an already overloaded system.
Reducing runoff time (C) can exacerbate peak flows by quickly directing water to the storm drains.
Conducting drainage along curbs (D) is standard but does not solve capacity issues if the municipal system is overloaded.
Thus, on-site retention and detention through basin creation is preferred.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Site and Stormwater Design The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Site Planning and Stormwater Management

NEW QUESTION # 30
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.
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* IBC Excerpts, showing relevant code sections
* ADA Standards Excerpts, showing relevant sections from the ADA Standards for Accessible Design Which of the following is the maximum height the platform can be above the gymnasium floor per the proposed design?

- A. 1'-9"
- B. 2'-6"
- C. 1'-6"

Answer: C

Explanation:
Per building and accessibility codes (such as ADA and IBC), raised platforms or stages in assembly areas like gymnasiums are limited in height to ensure safe access and egress. A maximum height of 1 foot 6 inches (18 inches) without requiring additional stairs or ramps is common to allow easy transition and avoid additional egress requirements.
Heights above 18 inches typically require stairs or ramps per ADA.
1'-9" or 2'-6" exceed these limits and would trigger additional code requirements.
References:
IBC Chapter 10 - Means of Egress
ADA Standards for Accessible Design
ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations

NEW QUESTION # 31

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