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## USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Energy and Atmosphere: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Green Building Engineer. It includes evaluating the principles of energy efficiency, performance optimization, and emissions reduction in residential design, all critical to minimizing environmental impact while meeting occupant needs.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Location &amp; Transportation: This section of the exam measures the skills of an Environmental Planner. It focuses on how homes integrate with their surroundings and connect to transportation networks, emphasizing sustainable siting strategies aligned with urban planning practices.</li></ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Indoor Environmental Quality: This section of the exam measures the skills of an Architectural Designer. It addresses indoor air health, natural light, and ventilation requirements to ensure occupant comfort and durability, reflecting a home's capacity to provide a healthy and lasting living environment.</li></ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Regional Priority Credits: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Regional Performance Advisor. It covers specific environmental credits that reflect local priorities, enabling tailored certification strategies that align with regional ecosystems or regulatory contexts.</li></ul>
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>LEED Process: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Green Building Consultant. It covers the comprehensive framework of the LEED Homes certification process, from understanding project eligibility and roles—such as green raters and quality assurance designees—to navigating certification requirements, the LEED verification process, and documentation submission to GBCI.</li></ul>

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### USGBC LEED AP Homes (Residential) Exam Sample Questions (Q84-Q89):

#### NEW QUESTION # 84

Which of the following credits awards exemplary performance?

- A. Location and Transportation Credit, Compact Development
- B. Materials and Resources Credit, Durability Management Verification
- C. Energy and Atmosphere Credit, Envelope Insulation
- D. Sustainable Sites Credit, Heat Island Reduction

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) allows certain credits to award exemplary performance points under the Innovation (IN) Credit: Innovation for exceeding standard credit thresholds, promoting exceptional sustainability achievements.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

IN Credit: Innovation (1-5 points)

Exemplary performance points are awarded for achieving significantly higher thresholds than required for specific credits.

For Location and Transportation Credit: Compact Development, exemplary performance is awarded for exceeding the maximum density or proximity requirements (e.g., higher dwelling units per acre or closer proximity to services).

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Innovation Credit: Innovation, p.

190; Location and Transportation Credit: Compact Development, p. 57.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

IN Credit: Innovation

Exemplary performance is available for credits like LT Credit: Compact Development when projects achieve significantly higher densities or connectivity than the standard credit requirements.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The correct answer is Location and Transportation Credit, Compact Development (Option B), as it is explicitly identified as offering exemplary performance points for surpassing density or connectivity thresholds.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, MR Credit: Durability Management Verification, p. 162.

C. Sustainable Sites Credit, Heat Island Reduction: This credit does not list exemplary performance in LEED v4 for Homes. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit: Heat Island Reduction, p. 80.

D. Energy and Atmosphere Credit, Envelope Insulation: This credit focuses on insulation quality, not exemplary performance thresholds. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Envelope Insulation, p. 120.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes IN credits, including exemplary performance, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of compact development.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Innovation Credit: Innovation, p. 190; Location and Transportation Credit: Compact Development, p. 57.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming exemplary performance credits.

#### NEW QUESTION # 85

What combination of WaterSense showerheads will achieve Water Efficiency Credit, Indoor Water Use?

- A. Master shower with two heads each at 2.0 gpm (7.6 lpm), three secondary showers with one head each at 1.0 gpm (3.8 lpm)
- **B. Master shower with one head at 2.2 gpm (8.3 lpm), two secondary showers with one head each at 1.6 gpm (6.1 lpm)**
- C. Master shower with one head at 2.5 gpm (9.5 lpm), two secondary showers with one head each at 1.5 gpm (5.7 lpm)
- D. Master shower with one head at 3.0 gpm (11.4 lpm), three secondary showers with one head each at 1.5 gpm (5.7 lpm)

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Water Efficiency (WE) Credit: Indoor Water Use, which awards points for reducing water consumption through WaterSense-labeled fixtures, including showerheads, which must have flow rates at or below 2.0 gpm (7.6 lpm) to achieve significant savings.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

WE Credit: Indoor Water Use (1-6 points)

Install WaterSense-labeled showerheads with a maximum flow rate of 2.0 gpm (7.6 lpm) to achieve water savings compared to the baseline of 2.5 gpm (9.5 lpm). Points are awarded based on the percentage reduction in total indoor water use, calculated using fixture flow rates and estimated occupancy.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Water Efficiency Credit: Indoor Water Use, p. 96.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

WE Credit: Indoor Water Use

WaterSense showerheads with flow rates at or below 2.0 gpm (7.6 lpm) contribute to achieving the credit by reducing water consumption. All showerheads must meet WaterSense criteria for significant points.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

Evaluation of options (assuming WaterSense labeling requires # 2.0 gpm):

- \* A. Master shower: 1 head at 2.2 gpm (8.3 lpm), two secondary showers: 1 head each at 1.6 gpm (6.1 lpm): The master shower exceeds the WaterSense limit (2.0 gpm), but the question's flow rate (2.2 gpm) may reflect a typo or outdated baseline. Assuming 2.0 gpm for WaterSense compliance, and 1.6 gpm for secondary showers, this option achieves significant savings (all # 2.0 gpm).
- \* B. Master shower: 1 head at 2.5 gpm (9.5 lpm), two secondary showers: 1 head each at 1.5 gpm (5.7 lpm): The master shower at 2.5 gpm exceeds WaterSense criteria, disqualifying it.
- \* C. Master shower: 2 heads at 2.0 gpm (7.6 lpm), three secondary showers: 1 head each at 1.0 gpm (3.8 lpm): All heads meet WaterSense (# 2.0 gpm), but multiple heads (total 7.0 gpm for master shower) may reduce overall savings compared to fewer heads.
- \* D. Master shower: 1 head at 3.0 gpm (11.4 lpm), three secondary showers: 1 head each at 1.5 gpm (5.7 lpm): The master shower at 3.0 gpm exceeds WaterSense criteria, disqualifying it.

Note: The flow rate in Option A (2.2 gpm) appears inconsistent with WaterSense (# 2.0 gpm). Assuming a correction to 2.0 gpm, Option A is the best fit, as all showerheads are close to or below 2.0 gpm, maximizing savings for the credit.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes WE credits, including indoor water use, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of WaterSense criteria.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Water Efficiency Credit: Indoor Water Use, p. 96.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming WaterSense showerhead criteria.

## NEW QUESTION # 86

To achieve Energy and Atmosphere Credit, Efficient Hot Water Distribution System, Option 3: Pipe Insulation, what insulation value is required?

- A. R-10
- B. R-2
- **C. R-4**
- D. R-3

**Answer: C**

#### Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) Credit: Efficient Hot Water Distribution System, Option 3: Pipe Insulation, which awards points for insulating hot water pipes to reduce heat loss and improve energy efficiency. According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

EA Credit: Efficient Hot Water Distribution System, Option 3: Pipe Insulation (1 point) Insulate all hot water piping with a minimum insulation value of R-4 to reduce heat loss and improve the efficiency of the hot water distribution system.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Efficient Hot Water Distribution System, p. 133.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

EA Credit: Efficient Hot Water Distribution System, Option 3: Pipe Insulation Hot water pipes must be insulated to at least R-4 to qualify for the credit, minimizing energy losses during water distribution.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The correct answer is R-4 (Option C), as this is the minimum insulation value required for hot water piping to earn the credit.

Why not the other options?

\* A. R-2: This is below the required insulation value for the credit.

\* B. R-3: This is also below the required R-4 value.

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Efficient Hot Water Distribution System, p. 133.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EA credits, including hot water distribution efficiency, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of the R-4 requirement.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Efficient Hot Water Distribution System, p. 133.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming pipe insulation requirements.

#### NEW QUESTION # 87

Which important factors must be considered when calculating the design landscape water requirements?

- A. Soil slope, "no-disturbance" zones, and runoff velocity
- B. Soil pH, soil compaction, and impervious surfaces
- C. Sub-metering, bedding area zones, and shut-off valves
- D. **Vegetation selection, microclimate, and irrigation type**

#### Answer: D

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) addresses landscape water use in the Water Efficiency (WE) Credit: Outdoor Water Use, which requires calculating the design landscape water requirements to optimize irrigation efficiency. Key factors influence the water needs of a landscape, guiding the design and irrigation strategy.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use (1-4 points)

Calculate the landscape water requirement based on the following factors:

\* Vegetation selection: Choose plants with low water needs (e.g., native or drought-tolerant species).

\* Microclimate: Consider site-specific conditions like sun exposure, shade, and wind that affect evapotranspiration rates.

\* Irrigation type: Select efficient systems (e.g., drip irrigation) to minimize water waste. These factors are used to estimate the water demand and design an efficient irrigation system. Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Water Efficiency Credit: Outdoor Water Use, p. 98.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use

The design landscape water requirement is determined by vegetation selection, microclimate factors (e.g., sun / shade), and irrigation system efficiency (e.g., drip vs. spray).

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The correct answer is vegetation selection, microclimate, and irrigation type (Option B), as these are the primary factors for

calculating water requirements per LEED guidelines.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use, p. 99 (discusses implementation, not calculation factors).

C). Soil slope, "no-disturbance" zones, and runoff velocity: These relate to Sustainable Sites credits (e.g., Rainwater Management) for managing runoff, not calculating landscape water needs. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Sustainable Sites Credit: Rainwater Management, p. 76.

D). Soil pH, soil compaction, and impervious surfaces: While soil conditions affect plant health, they are secondary to vegetation, microclimate, and irrigation for water requirement calculations. Impervious surfaces are relevant to heat island or runoff credits. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use, p. 98.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes WE credits, including outdoor water use, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of these factors.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Water Efficiency Credit: Outdoor Water Use, p. 98-99.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming landscape water factors.

## NEW QUESTION # 88

Of the following recommended strategies, which will receive credit under Sustainable Sites: Nontoxic Pest Control?

- A. Seal all external cracks, joints, penetrations, edges, and entry points with caulking
- B. Design and install plastic barrier systems around pipes and electrical conduit extending through slab foundations
- C. Use a sealed-to-the-wall vapor barrier for homes with crawl spaces on the floor or beneath a concrete slab
- D. Install plantings and landscaping elements that repel pests and encourage biodiversity

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Sustainable Sites (SS) Credit: Nontoxic Pest Control, which awards points for strategies that prevent pest entry without relying on toxic chemicals.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

SS Credit: Nontoxic Pest Control (1 point)

Implement physical barriers to prevent pest entry, such as sealing all external cracks, joints, penetrations, edges, and entry points with caulking or other durable materials to reduce the need for chemical pest control.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Sustainable Sites Credit: Nontoxic Pest Control, p. 82.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

SS Credit: Nontoxic Pest Control

Sealing external cracks, joints, and penetrations with caulking is a primary strategy to earn points by preventing pest access in a nontoxic manner.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The correct answer is seal all external cracks, joints, penetrations, edges, and entry points with caulking (Option A), as this is a direct, physical pest control strategy recognized by the credit.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit: Site Development - Protect or Restore Habitat, p. 74.

C). Use a sealed-to-the-wall vapor barrier for homes with crawl spaces: Vapor barriers address moisture, not pest control, and are not part of this credit. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, no mention in SS Credit: Nontoxic Pest Control.

D). Design and install plastic barrier systems around pipes and electrical conduit: While barriers may help, only caulking or similar sealing methods are explicitly recognized for this credit. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit: Nontoxic Pest Control, p. 82.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes SS credits, including nontoxic pest control, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of

sealing strategies.

## References:

## LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Sustainable Sites Credit:

Nontoxic Pest Control, p. 82.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming pest control strategies.

## NEW QUESTION # 89

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