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NCARB PDD – Questions With Complete Solutions

The role of a specifier? Right Ans - 1. determine the responsibility for structural specs with structure engineer;
2. coordinating standardized keynotes lists to be used on all drawings with the architect;
3. obtain a preferred general condition document from the client through the architect;
4. recommending everyone to use BIM;

What are included in the preliminary studies? Right Ans - 1. allowable height;
2. allowable area and occupant allowance;
3. fire rating requirements;

Percolation rate is used to determine what? Right Ans - To determine whether porous pavement should be used.

Forest Steward Council (FSC) Right Ans - Harvesting tree without violating people's right.

Under what condition can you put storage under stair? Right Ans - If it's protected with a minimum of 1-hour rated construction.

Where should the fire extinguisher cabinet (FEC) located? Right Ans - 48" - 60" AFF, no more than 4" extrusion.

Tear-out, Pull-through Right Ans - Tear-out: shear failure in a bolted connection due to tension at hole;
Pull-through: a compression failure where bolts pull through the holes.

ANSI, ASTM Right Ans - ANSI: American National Standard Institute;
ASTM: American Society for Testing Material, it's used for testing materials.

Composition of cement Right Ans - Limestone, clay, iron ore, gypsum

Subsystem estimate is used in which phases of design? Right Ans - SD and DD. Subsystem estimates deal with a project's functional units and it enables

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NCARB PDD Exam Syllabus Topics:

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

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

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NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Sample Questions (Q96-Q101):

NEW QUESTION # 96

505.2 Mezzanines. A mezzanine or mezzanines in compliance with Section 505.2 shall be considered a portion of the story below. Such mezzanines shall not contribute to either the building area or number of stories as regulated by Section 503.1. The area of the mezzanine shall be included in determining the fire area. The clear height above and below the mezzanine floor construction shall be not less than 7 feet (2134 mm).

505.2.1 Area limitation. The aggregate area of a mezzanine or mezzanines within a room shall be not greater than one-third of the floor area of that room or space in which they are located. The enclosed portion of a room shall not be included in a determination of the floor area of the room in which the mezzanine is located. In determining the allowable mezzanine area, the area of the mezzanine shall not be included in the floor area of the room.

505.2.3 Openness. A mezzanine shall be open and unobstructed to the room in which such mezzanine is located except for walls not more than 42 inches (1067 mm) in height, columns and posts.

Exceptions:

1. Mezzanines or portions thereof are not required to be open to the room in which the mezzanines are located, provided that the occupant load of the aggregate area of the enclosed space is not greater than 10.
2. A mezzanine having two or more exits or access to exits is not required to be open to the room in which the mezzanine is located.
3. Mezzanines or portions thereof are not required to be open to the room in which the mezzanines are located, provided that the aggregate floor area of the enclosed space is not greater than 10 percent of the mezzanine area.

Refer to the exhibit.

An architect is working on an airport lounge project. The 9,000 SF floor plan includes an open, double-height space. Due to area limitations, all program requirements cannot fit within the 9,000 SF floor plan. A mezzanine level with one exit is being proposed to solve this programming constraint. There are adequate exits available on the main floor plan to pick up the additional occupant load

from the mezzanine.

Which method of mezzanine construction should the architect design?

- A. 2,750 SF enclosed business center for 15 people
- B. 3,250 SF open dining area for 30 people
- C. 2,500 SF open lounge area for 20 people

Answer: A

Explanation:

Step-by-Step Reasoning

1. Mezzanine Area Limitations - IBC Section 505.2.1

From the exhibit:

The aggregate area of a mezzanine within a room shall be not greater than one-third of the floor area of that room/space.

Given:

* Main floor = 9,000 SF

* Maximum mezzanine size = $1/3 \times 9,000 \text{ SF} = 3,000 \text{ SF}$

2. Openness Requirements - IBC Section 505.2.3

From the exhibit:

A mezzanine must be open to the room below unless it qualifies for one of the listed exceptions.

3. Relevant Exception for Enclosed Mezzanine

Exception 1:

Mezzanines (or portions thereof) are not required to be open to the room if the occupant load of the enclosed space is not greater than 10.

Exception 3:

Mezzanines (or portions thereof) are not required to be open to the room if the aggregate floor area of the enclosed space is $\leq 10\%$ of the mezzanine area.

However - the scenario says:

* The mezzanine will have one exit (so it's not an open floor requiring multiple exits)

* The architect notes there are adequate exits on the main floor to handle additional occupant load from the mezzanine # This means it could be enclosed if allowed by exceptions.

4. Evaluate Each Option:

* A. 2,500 SF open lounge for 20 people

* Size $< 3,000 \text{ SF}$ # OK on area.

* Open mezzanine # Complies without needing an exception.

* But 20 occupants means more than 10 occupant load, so it can't be enclosed unless open - this one is already open, so fine.

* This works, but the question asks for which method should the architect design, and the key is the one-exit enclosed scenario.

* B. 2,750 SF enclosed business center for 15 people

* Size $< 3,000 \text{ SF}$ # OK.

* It is enclosed, and occupant load is 15, which is greater than 10. That means Exception 1 doesn't apply.

* But Exception 3 says: enclosed space can be allowed if enclosed area $\leq 10\%$ of mezzanine area.

Here:

* $10\% \text{ of } 2,750 \text{ SF} = 275 \text{ SF}$.

* If the enclosed portion is the business center itself (full area enclosed), then it fails Exception 3.

* Wait: This would only be code-compliant as enclosed if the occupant load is ≤ 10 (Exception 1) OR enclosed area $\leq 10\%$ of mezzanine (Exception 3).

* This option might work only if the mezzanine is considered enclosed but the occupant load doesn't require multiple exits and is allowed due to adequate exit capacity on the main floor - this appears to be the intended IBC Exception 1 scenario, but since $OL = 15 > 10$, it technically fails Exception 1.

* The problem statement says "adequate exits available on main floor to pick up additional occupant load" - which would allow designing an enclosed mezzanine as long as total egress capacity is fine.

* C. 3,250 SF open dining for 30 people

* Size exceeds 3,000 SF # FAILS area limitation. Not allowed.

5. Conclusion

Given the constraints:

* Must fit within $1/3$ floor area rule ($\leq 3,000 \text{ SF}$)

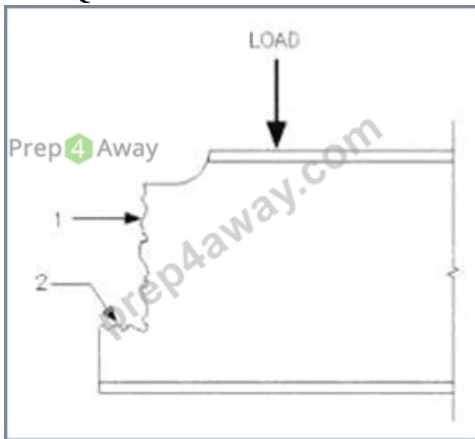
* Must work with one exit and available exit capacity on main floor

* Option C fails on size

* Option A is possible but doesn't use the enclosed condition in the prompt

* Option B meets area limit, occupant load works with available exit capacity, and provides an enclosed use that matches the problem's "program requirement" scenario

NEW QUESTION # 97



Refer to the exhibit.

Which of the following correctly identifies the types of failures indicated in the beam diagram?

- A. Compression, Shear
- B. Shear, Tension
- C. Tension, Compression
- D. Shear, Compression

Answer: B

Explanation:

The diagram shows a loaded beam with two types of failure indicated:

Location 1 on the top edge shows shear failure - characterized by jagged cracks or fractures, typically near supports or where shear forces peak.

Location 2 near the bottom edge shows tension failure - concrete is weak in tension, so cracks develop at the bottom face in a simply supported beam under load.

This matches common structural behavior where:

The top fibers of a beam in bending undergo compression and shear stress.

The bottom fibers undergo tension (where cracks often form).

Shear cracks are usually diagonal and closer to the support (near the ends), tension cracks are vertical and near the midspan.

Reference:

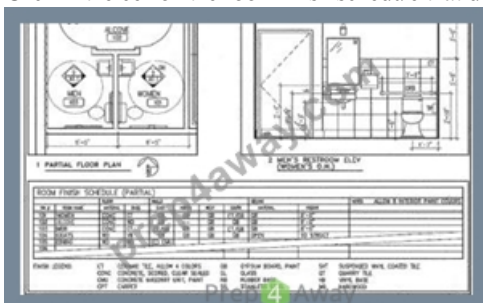
NCARB ARE 5.0 Review Manual, Structural Systems chapter

Fundamentals of structural analysis and beam failure modes

NEW QUESTION # 98

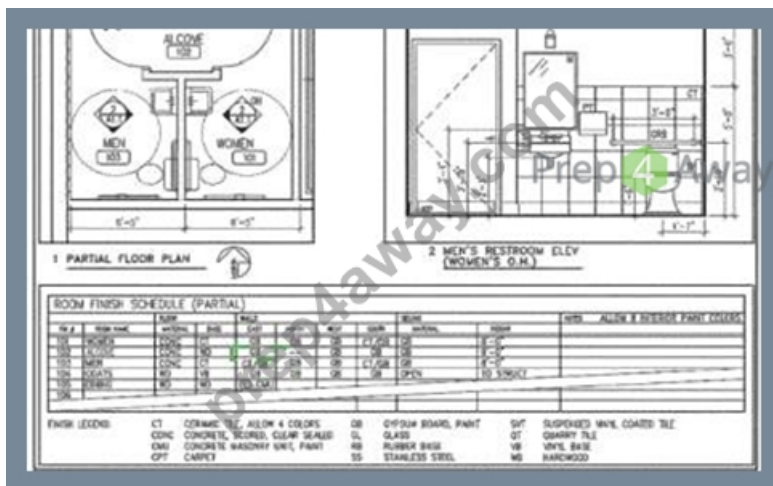
During drawing review, a discrepancy is found between the drawings and room 101 on the finish schedule.

Click in the cell on the room finish schedule that does not match the drawings.

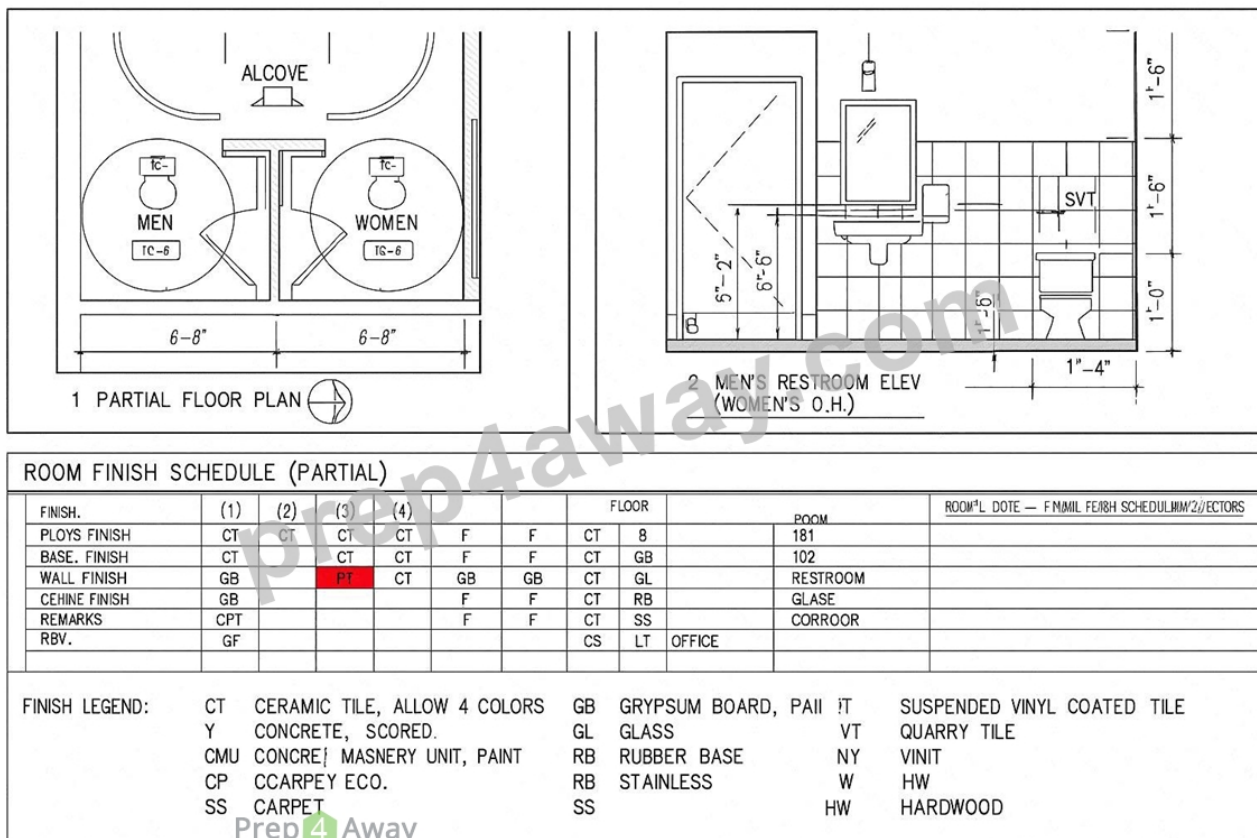


Answer:

Explanation:



Explanation:
Generated image



To identify the discrepancy between the drawings and the Room Finish Schedule for Room 101, compare what's shown in the restroom elevation and plan versus the listed finishes.

Step-by-step comparison:

* Room 101 (Women's Restroom) is shown with:

* Wall finish: Clearly shows tile (CT) on the lower half of the walls in the elevation.

* But in the finish schedule, Room 101 has "PT" (paint) listed under wall finish.

Therefore, the error is in the wall finish cell for Room 101, which should show CT (ceramic tile), not PT (paint).

NEW QUESTION # 99

Which of the following documents defines the responsibilities and duties of the contractor during construction?

- A. G702
- B. A201
- C. A101
- D. B101

Answer: B

Explanation:

A201 is the General Conditions of the Contract for Construction and outlines duties, rights, and responsibilities of the contractor.

This includes site supervision, safety, and conformance with documents.

ARE Handbook Objective 1.4 focuses on interpreting contract documents.

NEW QUESTION # 100

For the same moment, a glue-laminated beam would require a section modulus of what proportion relative to a sawn timber beam? (Assume F_b of the glue-laminated beam is 2,400 psi and F_b of the sawn lumber beam equals 1,200 psi.)

- A. 1/2
- B. 0
- C. 3/4
- D. The same

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive Detailed Explanation with all NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation (PDD) Study Guide

References:

The question is about the relative section modulus (S) required for a glue-laminated beam vs. a sawn timber beam to resist the same bending moment. The formula relating bending stress (F_b), moment (M), and section modulus (S) is:

$$F_b = \frac{M}{S} \Rightarrow S = \frac{M}{F_b}$$

For the same bending moment M, the section modulus is inversely proportional to the allowable bending stress

- F_b of glue-laminated beam = 2,400 psi
- F_b of sawn timber beam = 1,200 psi

Calculate relative section modulus:

$$\frac{S_{glulam}}{S_{sawn}} = \frac{F_{b\text{ sawn}}}{F_{b\text{ glulam}}} = \frac{1,200}{2,400} = \frac{1}{2}$$

Therefore, the glue-laminated beam requires half the section modulus compared to the sawn timber beam.

Supporting Reference:

NCARB ARE 5.0 Review Manual, Structural Systems chapter

Basic bending stress and beam design equations from structural design texts

NEW QUESTION # 101

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