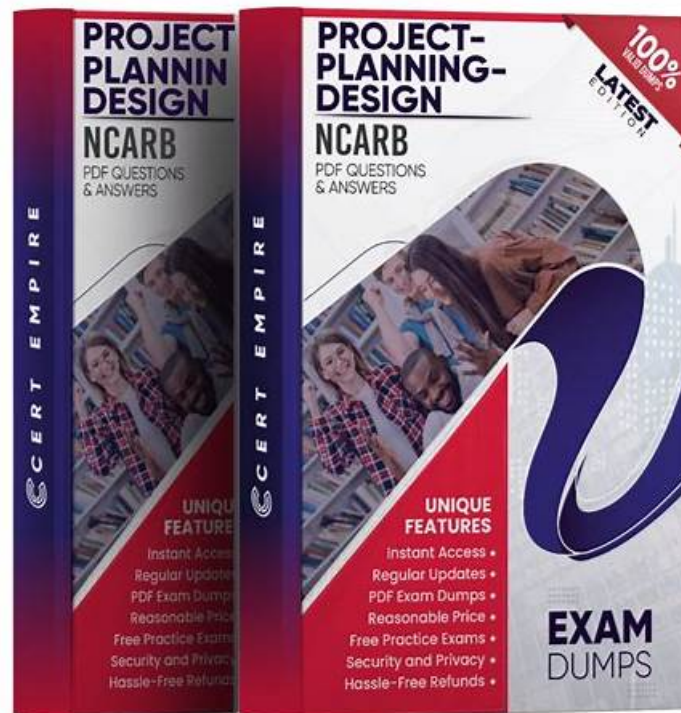


# Project-Planning-Design Exam Tutorial & Test Project-Planning-Design Passing Score



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

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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 2	<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 3	<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 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project Costs &amp; Budgeting:</b> 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>• <b>Building Systems, Materials, &amp; Assemblies:</b> 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>

### >> Project-Planning-Design Exam Tutorial <<

## 2026 Project-Planning-Design Exam Tutorial: ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) - Trustable NCARB Test Project-Planning-Design Passing Score

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## NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q75-Q80):

### NEW QUESTION # 75

Which of the following is the most appropriate action for the architect to take in preparing a construction cost estimate for an owner after completing the schematic design phase?

- A. Double the contingency allowance for profit if the owner requires the use of a construction manager.
- B. Vary the amount of the contingency allowance depending on the funds in the possession of the owner.
- **C. Include a larger contingency percentage for the design development phase than for the construction document phase.**
- D. Provide the greatest contingency allowance in the construction administration phase.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Contingency allowances should be larger during the earlier phases (such as schematic design) due to greater unknowns and potential design changes. As the design progresses and more details are defined, contingency can be reduced.

Varying contingency based on owner funds (B) is inappropriate.

Contingency during construction administration (C) is typically lower.

Doubling contingency for CM use (D) is not standard practice.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Project Costs and Budgeting

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Cost Estimating

### NEW QUESTION # 76

If evaluating on a life-cycle basis, which of the following effects is the major reason for using native or adapted plantings on-site?

- A. Reduction in root adaptation time period
- B. Reduction in transplantation costs
- **C. Reduction in irrigation water and fertilizer**

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Native or adapted plantings are used primarily to reduce long-term environmental and maintenance costs in sustainable site design. The most significant life-cycle benefit is the reduction in irrigation water and fertilizer requirements because native plants are naturally suited to local climate and soil conditions. They typically require less supplemental watering, fertilizer, and pesticide use, which reduces resource consumption and maintenance efforts over the plantings' lifespan.

Option B (Reduction in root adaptation time period) is a minor factor relative to water and nutrient needs.

Option C (Reduction in transplantation costs) relates more to initial installation cost rather than long-term life-cycle impacts.

Using native or adapted plant species supports sustainable landscape design principles emphasized in the NCARB PPD content, contributing to water conservation, reduced chemical use, and improved ecological performance.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Sustainable Site Design The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Landscape and Site Planning NCARB Sustainable Design Guidelines

### NEW QUESTION # 77

An architect has just received client approval of the Schematic Design documents for a three-story, outpatient medical clinic. The clinic is located within a mixed-use development governed by a City-approved Planned Development (PD) document. The medical clinic design utilizes standardized departmental layouts and includes outpatient clinics, as well as treatment spaces, administrative spaces and public/lobby spaces.

The site needs to accommodate four different vehicular traffic flows: patient traffic, staff traffic, service and delivery traffic, and emergency services traffic. In addition, a pedestrian plaza must connect to the mixed-use development sidewalks. The plaza must provide space for bicycle parking and will serve as the future bus stop.

The site design addresses several challenges related to building orientation. The southeast facade, with excellent visibility from the highway, is the location of all service equipment. The building entrance faces northwest, convenient to the parking but not visible from the highway.

The client believes future patient volumes will outgrow the clinic. The PD document allows for a planned Phase 2 development on the adjacent vacant site to the southwest. Phase 2 would include a second building (2 story, 80,000 BGSF) and/or a parking deck.

Other considerations for the project include:

- \* Protected tree requirements are defined in the PD document.
- \* Easy pedestrian access must be provided from Sycamore Boulevard.
- \* All required parking for the clinic must be accommodated on site.
- \* Programmed area includes 109,450 Departmental Gross Square Feet (DGSF) / 130,184 Building Gross Square Feet (BGSF).
- \* Exterior material percentages are dictated by the PD document and shall not exceed specific percentages for Primary and Secondary Finishes.
- \* All service equipment needs to be screened; see PD document for restrictions.
- \* Signage opportunities are important to the client.
- \* Acoustical privacy is a concern of the healthcare system.

The following resources are available for your reference:

- \* Drawings, including a perspective, plans, and exterior elevations
- \* Building Program, including client's departmental program and detailed program for Treatment 01 (Infusion)
- \* Exterior Material Cost Comparisons
- \* Planned Development Document
- \* IBC Excerpts, showing relevant code sections
- \* ADA Excerpts, showing relevant sections from the ADA Standards for Accessible Design Pink granite is specified as an exterior material for the outpatient medical clinic. The owner directs the architect to propose alternate, less expensive materials to be used in lieu of the pink granite.

Which of the following materials should be considered to reduce cost? Check the two that apply.

- A. Slate
- B. Metal panels
- C. Architectural precast
- D. Black granite
- E. Ashlar veneer
- F. Brick

**Answer: C,F**

Explanation:

Alternatives to expensive natural stone like pink granite include materials that provide similar aesthetic and durability at a lower cost: Architectural precast (A) concrete panels offer a durable, customizable, and less expensive alternative.

Brick (F) is also cost-effective, versatile, and widely accepted as an exterior finish.

Black granite (B) and slate (D) remain expensive natural stones.

Ashlar veneer (C) may still be costly.

Metal panels (E) are typically used as accent materials and may not be allowed extensively per PD requirements.

References:

Planned Development Document

ARE 5.0 PPD - Project Integration of Program and Systems

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Exterior Finishes

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  - \* Planned Development Document
  - \* IBC Excerpts, showing relevant code sections
  - \* ADA Excerpts, showing relevant sections from the ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- The owner is considering fitting out part of the shell space on the third floor as a cafeteria with tables and chairs and a 1,000-square-foot kitchen. The architect notes that the aggregate occupant load is 325 for the spaces already planned for the third floor and the proposed kitchen.

What is the net area that can be allocated to the cafeteria before a third exit stair is needed from the third floor?

- A. 1,225 square feet
- **B. 2,625 square feet**
- C. 4,875 square feet

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

According to IBC egress requirements, the number of exits depends on occupant load and travel distance. For occupant loads over 300, additional exits (such as a third exit stair) may be required.

Given the current occupant load (325 including kitchen), the net area allowed for the cafeteria before requiring a third exit stair can be calculated based on occupant load factors for dining areas (typically about 15 sq ft per occupant).

Multiplying occupant load capacity by occupant load factor yields the net area.

The value 2,625 square feet (Answer B) corresponds to the maximum area before exceeding the occupant load threshold requiring a third exit stair.

References:

IBC Chapter 10 - Means of Egress

### NEW QUESTION # 79

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

**Answer: C**

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 # 80

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omissions for unimportant test sites. At the same time, Project-Planning-Design Exam Dump made a detailed description of all the incomprehensible knowledge points through examples, forms, etc., so that everyone can easily understand.

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