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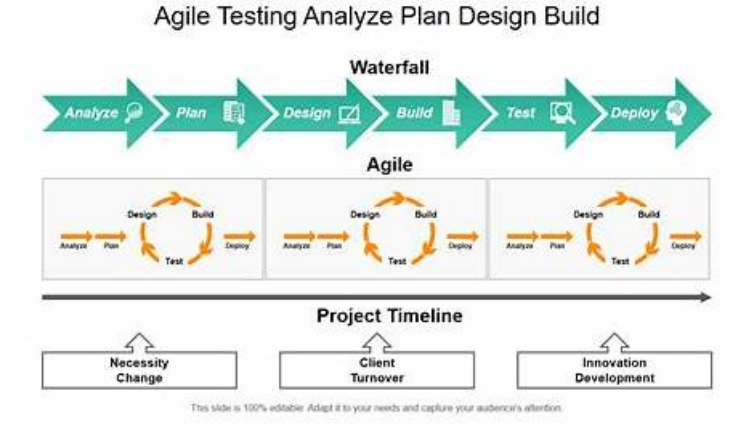

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NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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 2	• 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 3	• 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 4	• 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.
Topic 5	• 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.

NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q12-Q17):

NEW QUESTION # 12
Refer to the exhibit (residential floor plan with three outlined elevator core locations A, B, C).
During design development, an owner has chosen an elevator that does not fit in the location previously selected for the two-car elevator core. The elevator core should be near the main entrance lobby and centrally located. The minimum program requirements for each residential floor are the following:
One bicycle room
Five studios
Five 1-bed units
Eight 2-bed units
Three 3-bed units
Which outlined location meets the requirements?

- A. B
- B. C
- C. A

Answer: B

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
Location C is centrally located near the main entrance lobby and accommodates program requirements. It aligns with circulation patterns and building massing necessary to support efficient vertical transportation and access to all unit types, including bicycle storage.
Locations A and B are less centralized or do not provide convenient access, making C optimal.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Project Integration of Program and Systems
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Vertical Transportation

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NEW QUESTION # 13
Refer to the exhibit (urban commercial site sketch).
In the urban commercial site shown in the sketch, which is the most convenient location for a truck entrance and exit from the site?

- A. B
- B. D

- C. C
- D. A

Answer: C

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
When planning truck entrances and exits on an urban commercial site, several key factors are considered:
traffic flow, safety, convenience, and minimizing interference with customer parking and pedestrian areas.
* Option C is located on a one-way street that allows trucks to enter or exit smoothly without conflicting with two-way traffic or customer parking. Since the street next to point C is one-way with traffic moving away from the intersection, trucks exiting at C can merge safely and efficiently into traffic.
* Option A is adjacent to customer parking, and a truck entrance here would interfere with customer access and create safety hazards.
* Option B is positioned near a traffic light on a two-way street, which may complicate truck maneuvering and increase congestion at the intersection.
* Option D is on a two-way street and near an intersection, which could disrupt traffic flow and cause potential safety conflicts with turning vehicles and pedestrians.
NCARB's ARE 5.0 PPD content emphasizes locating service and delivery entrances away from customer areas and at points that allow safe, efficient truck access without disrupting primary pedestrian and vehicle circulation.
References:
ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design Content Outline: Project Integration of Program and Systems - Site Planning and Vehicular Circulation The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapter 7: Site Design and Vehicle Circulation
NCARB PPD Study Guide: Urban Site Planning and Circulation

NEW QUESTION # 14
During design development of a new motel, the owner receives a cost estimate which was higher than what they had budgeted for. The project descriptions are as follows:
* Number of units: Twenty
* Construction type: V-B
* Number of stories: Two
* Structural system: Light wood frame
* Mechanical system: Central air system
The client wants the architect to reduce the initial construction cost without sacrificing the potential return on investment.

- A. Change the number of stories to three.
- B. Change the structural system to a precast concrete system.
- C. Change the central air system to individual through-the-wall units at each room.
- D. Change the scope to an eighteen-unit development.

Answer: C

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
Switching from a centralized HVAC system to individual through-the-wall units (PTACs) significantly reduces initial construction and mechanical costs by eliminating the need for extensive ductwork and mechanical rooms.
Increasing stories (A) increases structural and construction costs.
Reducing units (C) reduces revenue potential.
Precast concrete system (D) is typically more expensive than light wood framing.
Thus, individual room units save cost without reducing revenue potential.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Project Costs and Budgeting
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Mechanical Systems and Cost Control

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NEW QUESTION # 15
Examples of regulatory controls include which of the following elements? Check the four that apply.

- A. Historic designation
- B. Economic models
- C. Environmental management
- D. Socio-political demographics
- E. Fire protection
- F. Master plans

Answer: A,C,E,F

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
Regulatory controls are governmental or authoritative rules that regulate land use, building design, and environmental protection.
Master plans (A): Provide regulatory frameworks guiding development.
Environmental management (B): Includes regulations on land, water, and air quality.
Fire protection (C): Enforced through codes and regulations.
Historic designation (E): Regulates preservation and alterations of historic sites.
Socio-political demographics (D) and economic models (F) are influential factors but are not regulatory controls.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Land Use Controls

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NEW QUESTION # 16
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 The project team decides to cover the roof area above the gymnasium and platform with 350 watt, stationary, photovoltaic (PV) panels. Each panel requires 20 square feet, accounting for access aisles and safety clearances. The PV system will be tied to the local power company's electrical grid, and will not have battery storage. The school is located in a region that gets an average of 4 usable hours of sunlight per day.
Which of the following PV system design considerations apply to this project? Check the three that apply.
Refer to the project involving an elementary school renovation and addition with photovoltaic (PV) panels on the gymnasium roof (350-watt panels, 20 sq ft each, ~4 usable sunlight hours/day). The PV system is grid-tied without battery storage.
Which of the following PV system design considerations apply? Check the three that apply.

- A. The PV panels should be mounted toward the student pick-up/drop-off.
- B. The PV system will produce approximately 95.5 kW during peak sun conditions.
- C. The PV system will be made up of approximately 273 panels.
- D. The PV system will provide emergency power for the school if the grid goes down.
- E. The gymnasium and platform structural system must be designed to support the load of the PV system.

- F. The PV system will reduce the need for artificial lighting in the gymnasium and platform areas.

Answer: B,C,E

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
B: Structural support must accommodate PV panel weight and wind loads.
C: Number of panels is calculated by dividing total roof area by panel area (total panel count # 273).
F: Peak power output = number of panels × wattage per panel (273 × 350 W # 95.5 kW).
A: Grid-tied systems without batteries do not provide power during outages.
D: PV panels generate electricity but do not directly reduce artificial lighting needs.
E: Panels are mounted for optimal solar exposure, not necessarily toward pick-up areas.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Solar Energy
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Renewable Energy

NEW QUESTION # 17
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