

New USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Exam Notes & LEED-AP-Homes Test Dates

LEED AP® BD+C EXAM PREPARATION GUIDE

BUILDING DESIGN
CONSTRUCTION



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USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Exam Syllabus Topics:

| Topic | Details |
|---------|---|
| Topic 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovation: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Design Innovation Lead. It invites professionals to explore creative and exemplary strategies that surpass standard credits—such as pilot projects or pioneering sustainability solutions—demonstrating forward-thinking in residential design. |
| Topic 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Materials & Resources: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Sustainability Specialist. It emphasizes the selection and management of eco-friendly materials, efficient usage of resources, and implementation of waste reduction strategies to support green residential construction. |

| | |
|---------|---|
| Topic 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |
| Topic 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |
| Topic 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |
| Topic 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location & 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. |

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The second format of LEED AP Homes (Residential) Exam (LEED-AP-Homes) is the web-based practice exam that can be taken online through browsers like Firefox, Chrome, Safari, MS Edge, Internet Explorer, and Microsoft Edge. You don't need to install any excessive plugins or Software to attempt the web-based Practice LEED-AP-Homes Exam. All operating systems also support the web-based practice exam.

USGBC LEED AP Homes (Residential) Exam Sample Questions (Q91-Q96):

NEW QUESTION # 91

For a site in a town with a population of 10,000 to qualify under Location and Transportation Credit, Site Selection, Option 2: Infill Development, what portion of the site's perimeter must border previously disturbed land?

- A. 50%
- **B. 75%**
- C. 25%
- D. 100%

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) outlines the requirements for the Location and Transportation (LT) Credit: Site Selection, which includes Option 2: Infill Development. This credit encourages development on sites that minimize environmental impact by utilizing previously disturbed or developed land.

For a site to qualify as infill development, a specific portion of its perimeter must border land that has been previously disturbed. According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4), the requirement for Option 2: Infill Development is as follows:

Option 2. Infill Development (1 point)

Select a lot such that at least 75% of the perimeter of the project site immediately borders parcels that are previously developed or that have been graded or otherwise altered by direct human activities.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Location and Transportation Credit: Site Selection, p. 54.

This means that 75% of the site's perimeter must border previously disturbed land to meet the infill development criteria. The population of the town (10,000 in this case) does not directly affect the infill development requirement but may be relevant for other LT credits, such as Access to Quality Transit or Neighborhood Pattern and Design, which consider community size or density.

However, for Site Selection, Option 2, the focus is solely on the perimeter bordering previously disturbed land.

The LEED v4.1 for Homes rating system aligns with this requirement, as it maintains the same infill development criteria for residential projects under the LT category:

LT Credit: Site Selection, Option 2. Infill Development

At least 75% of the project site's perimeter must border previously developed or disturbed parcels.

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

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook confirms that the exam tests knowledge of the LEED v4 rating system, including the LT credits, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a primary study resource. The handbook does not alter the technical requirements but emphasizes understanding credit intent and compliance paths, such as the infill development perimeter rule.

Why not the other options?

* A. 25%: This is too low and does not meet the minimum threshold for infill development, which requires significant adjacency to previously disturbed land to ensure compact, sustainable development.

* B. 50%: While closer, 50% still falls short of the 75% requirement, which is designed to prioritize sites fully integrated into existing developed areas.

* D. 100%: Requiring 100% of the perimeter to border previously disturbed land is overly restrictive and not specified in the LEED v4 or v4.1 requirements.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Location and Transportation Credit: Site Selection, p. 54.

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 alignment with v4 infill requirements.

NEW QUESTION # 92

Which member of the verification team conducts field inspections of LEED prerequisites and credits?

- A. LEED Green Rater
- B. LEED for Homes QAD
- C. Energy Rater
- D. LEED for Homes Provider

Answer: A

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) requires third-party verification for prerequisites and credits, with specific roles defined for the verification team. The LEED Green Rater is responsible for conducting field inspections to verify compliance.

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

Verification Process

The LEED Green Rater, a trained professional certified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI), conducts field inspections to verify compliance with LEED for Homes prerequisites and credits, including energy, water, and indoor environmental quality measures.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Introduction, p. 28.

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

Verification Process

The LEED Green Rater performs on-site inspections to ensure that the project meets all prerequisites and targeted credits, documenting compliance for certification.

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

The correct answer is LEED Green Rater (Option D), as this team member is responsible for field inspections of LEED prerequisites and credits.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

B). LEED for Homes Provider: The Provider oversees the certification process and coordinates verification but does not conduct field inspections. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Introduction, p. 28.

C). LEED for Homes QAD: The Quality Assurance Designee (QAD) reviews documentation for quality control, not field inspections. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Introduction, p. 28.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes the verification process, including the role of the Green Rater, 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 Green Rater's role.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Introduction, p. 28.

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 verification roles.

NEW QUESTION # 93

The intent of Water Efficiency Credit, Outdoor Water Use, is to minimize which of the following?

- A. Building footprint
- B. Fertilizer use
- C. Heat island effect
- D. Wildlife habitat

Answer: C

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Water Efficiency (WE) Credit: Outdoor Water Use, which aims to reduce irrigation water consumption through strategies like native plant selection and efficient irrigation systems. According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

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

The intent is to reduce outdoor water consumption for irrigation, thereby minimizing the environmental impact of water use and indirectly supporting other sustainability goals, such as reducing energy use associated with water delivery. While not directly targeting the heat island effect, efficient irrigation can contribute to cooler landscapes by supporting vegetation, unlike the Sustainable Sites Credit: Heat Island Reduction, which directly addresses heat island mitigation.

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 primary intent is to minimize outdoor water use for irrigation, which can also support vegetated surfaces that mitigate the heat island effect, though this is a secondary benefit.

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

The correct answer is heat island effect (Option C), as reducing outdoor water use supports vegetated landscapes that help mitigate heat island effects, aligning with the credit's broader environmental goals. Note that the primary intent is water reduction, but among the options, heat island effect is the most relevant secondary benefit.

Why not the other options?

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

B). Building footprint: This is relevant to LT Credit: Compact Development, not outdoor water use.

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, LT Credit: Compact Development, p. 57.

D). Wildlife habitat: Native plants support habitat (SS Credit: Site Development), but this is not the intent of WE Outdoor Water Use. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit: Site Development - Protect or Restore Habitat, p. 74.

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 water reduction goals.

References:

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

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 outdoor water use intent.

NEW QUESTION # 94

The owner is considering a fireplace in a new house and is pursuing LEED for Homes certification. Which type of fireplace, if any, should be installed in order to achieve the maximum credit for Indoor Environmental Quality Credit, Enhanced Combustion?

- A. Masonry wood-burning fireplace
- B. EPA-certified woodstove
- C. Factory-built wood-burning fireplace with catalytic combustor
- **D. Install no fireplace**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ) Credit:

Enhanced Combustion Venting, which awards points for minimizing indoor air quality risks from combustion appliances, including fireplaces. Avoiding combustion appliances altogether is the most effective way to achieve the maximum credit.

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

EQ Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting (1 point)

To achieve the maximum credit, install no combustion appliances, including fireplaces, to eliminate the risk of combustion byproducts (e.g., carbon monoxide) entering the home. If fireplaces are installed, they must be direct-vented or power-vented with doors. EPA-certified woodstoves or factory-built fireplaces with catalytic combustors reduce emissions but do not achieve the maximum credit compared to no fireplace.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Indoor Environmental Quality Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting, p. 144.

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

EQ Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting

The highest level of compliance is achieved by installing no combustion appliances, including fireplaces. If fireplaces are used, they must be sealed and vented, but avoiding fireplaces maximizes indoor air quality protection.

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

The correct answer is install no fireplace (Option A), as this eliminates combustion risks entirely, achieving the maximum credit for Enhanced Combustion Venting.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting, p. 144.

C). Masonry wood-burning fireplace: These are less efficient and produce more emissions, not meeting the credit's stringent requirements. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting, p. 144.

D). Factory-built wood-burning fireplace with catalytic combustor: While improved, it still involves combustion and does not achieve the maximum credit compared to no fireplace. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EQ Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting, p. 144.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EQ credits, including combustion venting, 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 avoiding fireplaces for maximum credit.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Indoor Environmental Quality Credit: Enhanced Combustion Venting, p. 144.

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/lead-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming combustion venting criteria.

NEW QUESTION # 95

Which of the following strategies contributes to achieving Sustainable Sites Credit, Rainwater Management?

- **A. Direct rainwater runoff toward an appropriate permanent infiltration feature**
- B. Use drought-resistant vegetation in all planting areas
- C. Provide filtration of the stormwater runoff before discharging into the city storm system

- D. Install a graywater collection system with filtration for irrigation and non-potable use

Answer: A

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Sustainable Sites (SS) Credit: Rainwater Management, which aims to reduce stormwater runoff and its environmental impacts through on-site management strategies.

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

SS Credit: Rainwater Management (1-3 points)

Manage stormwater runoff through strategies such as directing runoff to permanent infiltration features (e.g., rain gardens, permeable paving, or bioswales) to reduce the volume and rate of runoff entering storm sewers.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Sustainable Sites Credit: Rainwater Management, p. 76.

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

SS Credit: Rainwater Management

Directing rainwater runoff to permanent infiltration features, such as rain gardens or infiltration trenches, contributes to credit achievement by promoting on-site retention and reducing stormwater discharge.

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

The correct answer is direct rainwater runoff toward an appropriate permanent infiltration feature (Option B), as this directly reduces runoff volume, aligning with the credit's intent.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use, p. 98.

C). Install a graywater collection system with filtration for irrigation and non-potable use: Graywater systems are addressed in WE Credit: Indoor Water Use or WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use, not stormwater management. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, WE Credit: Indoor Water Use, p. 96.

D). Provide filtration of the stormwater runoff before discharging into the city storm system: Filtration improves water quality but does not reduce runoff volume, which is the primary goal of the Rainwater Management credit. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit:

Rainwater Management, p. 76.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes SS credits, including rainwater management, 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 infiltration strategies.

References:

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

Rainwater Management, p. 76.

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 rainwater management strategies.

NEW QUESTION # 96

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