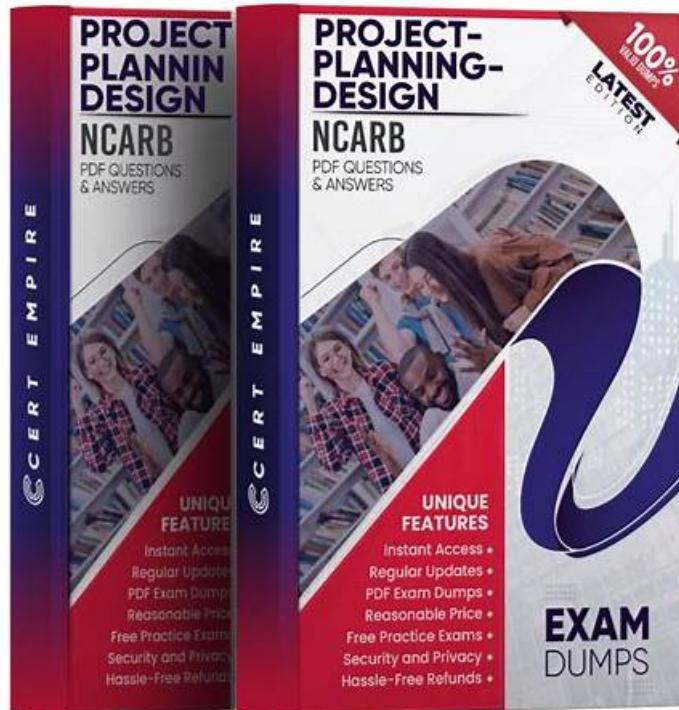


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## NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Building Systems, Materials, &amp; 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.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Project Costs &amp; 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.</li></ul>
Topic 3	<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 4	<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 5	<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>

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### NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q31-Q36):

#### NEW QUESTION # 31

An architect is designing a multistory student housing project to be built of light wood framing. The following criteria must be met:

Minimize the floor assembly thickness

Maximize ceiling height

No individual HVAC room controls

No exposed ductwork

Which HVAC system should be selected for this project?

- A. Variable air volume (VAV)
- B. Four-pipe fan-coil system**
- C. Packaged terminal units (PTAC)

#### Answer: B

Explanation:

For multistory residential buildings such as student housing with light wood framing, HVAC system selection must balance space constraints and occupant comfort. The requirement to minimize floor thickness and maximize ceiling height typically rules out bulky ductwork or ceiling-mounted systems.

Packaged Terminal Air Conditioners (PTACs) provide individual room control and require wall penetrations, conflicting with the "no individual HVAC room controls" and likely leading to more complex maintenance.

Variable Air Volume (VAV) systems typically require extensive ductwork and ceiling space, contradicting the goal to minimize floor thickness and eliminate exposed ductwork.

The Four-pipe fan-coil system is an efficient choice for this application: it uses small fan coil units within the ceiling or wall cavities with chilled and hot water supply pipes running vertically. This system minimizes the thickness of mechanical floors and allows centralized control rather than individual room controls. The fan coil units can be concealed, addressing the "no exposed ductwork" criterion.

This approach aligns with NCARB's guidance on HVAC system selection for multifamily and residential occupancies where ceiling height and floor thickness are critical constraints, and centralized control systems are preferred for ease of maintenance and energy management.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD Study Guide - Building Systems and Assemblies

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Mechanical Systems NCARB Guidelines on HVAC Systems for Residential Buildings

### NEW QUESTION # 32

Refer to the exhibit (building with wind impacting wall A, and openings shown).

For the building subjected to wind as shown, the design pressure acting on the interior face of wall A would be what?

- A. Acting away from wall A only
- B. Zero
- C. Acting both toward and away from wall A
- D. Acting toward wall A only

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

With openings allowing wind passage, pressure on the interior of wall A varies:

Wind pressure on the windward side induces positive pressure toward wall A.

Wind entering openings can create localized negative pressure (suction) on the interior surface, acting away from wall A.

Thus, the interior face experiences both positive and negative pressures depending on location and airflow, meaning D. Acting both toward and away from wall A is correct.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Wind Loads on Building Enclosures The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Building Envelope Design

### NEW QUESTION # 33

In the design of a project, the architect should do which of the following in order to respond to the requirements imposed by governmental authorities that have jurisdiction over the project?

- A. Implement a code search checklist to capture key design code information.
- B. Include a provision in the architect's contract with the owner that ensures compliance with all applicable codes.
- C. Include a provision in the construction contract that delegates code compliance to the contractor.
- D. Implement a staff training program that will guarantee compliance with all applicable codes.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Architects must proactively manage code compliance by thoroughly researching and documenting applicable codes early in design using tools like a code search checklist. This ensures key regulatory requirements are identified and integrated into design decisions.

Staff training (B) is good practice but does not guarantee compliance.

Delegating code compliance in contracts (C, D) does not relieve the architect's design responsibility.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Code Compliance

### NEW QUESTION # 34

For a government-owned project, architects can reduce consumption and waste by including which of the following requirements in their design and specifications? Check the four that apply.

- A. Reuse of existing structures
- B. Construction waste recycling
- C. Use of local materials
- D. Limit bidding to local contractors
- E. Use of low flow fixtures
- F. Means of construction

**Answer: A,B,C,E**

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

To reduce consumption and waste, especially for government projects emphasizing sustainability:

Construction waste recycling (A): Diverts materials from landfill.

Use of local materials (B): Reduces transportation energy and emissions.

Reuse of existing structures (D): Minimizes new material use and demolition waste.

Use of low flow fixtures (F): Conserves water and reduces operational consumption.

Means of construction (C) and limiting bidding (E) affect cost and process but less directly impact waste reduction.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Sustainable Design

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Green Building

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### NEW QUESTION # 35

According to model codes, wind pressure can be positive on the roof of a low-rise building when wind is which one of the following?

- A. Parallel to the ridge and roof slope is 30 to 45 degrees
- B. Perpendicular to ridge and roof slope is 30 to 45 degrees
- C. Parallel to long side and the roof is flat
- D. Perpendicular to ridge and roof slope is 15 degrees

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Wind pressure on a building's roof can be either positive (pressure pushing down on the surface) or negative (suction or uplift). The distribution of pressure depends largely on wind direction relative to the building geometry and roof slope.

\* Option C: When wind strikes the roof perpendicular to the ridge with slopes between 30 and 45 degrees, the wind creates a positive pressure on the windward side of the roof. This is because the air impinges directly onto the sloped surface, pushing downward and exerting positive pressure. The leeward side of the roof, by contrast, experiences negative pressure (suction). This condition is well documented in ASCE 7 and reflected in the IBC (International Building Code) wind load provisions.

\* Option A: Wind parallel to the long side with a flat roof typically causes mostly negative pressures (suction) on the roof, not positive pressures, because the airflow accelerates over the roof surface.

\* Options B and D: At lower roof slopes (like 15 degrees) or when the wind is parallel to the ridge with moderate slopes, the roof usually experiences suction (negative pressure) rather than positive pressure.

The flatter or more parallel the surface is relative to wind flow, the more suction effects dominate.

Positive wind pressure on roofs is important for structural design because it influences the design of roofing systems, connections, and overall structural loads. Understanding when and where positive pressure occurs ensures proper anchorage and prevents failures due to uplift or overturning forces.

References:

ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design Content Outline: Environmental Conditions and Context - Wind Loads and Effects ASCE 7-16: Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures (Chapter on Wind Loads) The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapter 13: Building Codes, Standards, and Regulations - Wind Design

### NEW QUESTION # 36

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