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NCARB PDD Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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 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"> 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 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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PDD Real Exam | Efficient NCARB PDD: ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam

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NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Sample Questions (Q91-Q96):

NEW QUESTION # 91

An architect is rehabilitating a historic federal landmark that requires repairs to a garden wall. The existing brick appears to be in good condition; the mortar shows significant signs of deterioration.

Which strategy should the architect propose to repair the damaged wall?

- A. Carefully remove all mortar and repoint all joints to achieve a uniform appearance.
- **B. Remove loose mortar by hand raking the joints prior to repointing.**
- C. Completely remove deteriorated mortar with electric saws prior to repointing.

Answer: B

Explanation:

(PDD) Study Guide References

For historic masonry rehabilitation, the accepted approach (e.g., NPS Preservation Brief 2: Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry) is to hand#rake deteriorated mortar to a proper depth (typically 2-2½× the joint width or until sound mortar is reached), avoid power#saw removal that can damage historic brick, and match the original mortar in composition, hardness, color, and tooling.

A is incorrect because removing all mortar for a "uniform appearance" is unnecessary and risks damaging sound joints.

B is incorrect because electric saws can chip and over#cut historic brick arrises, violating preservation best practices.

C is correct: careful hand removal of loose/deteriorated mortar followed by repointing with compatible mortar is the recommended method.

PDD References: Historic fabric protection under "Codes/Regulations & Standards-Historic preservation," detailing of masonry

repairs in construction documents (Division 04), and QA/QC specifications for repointing.

NEW QUESTION # 92

Which of the following admixtures is used to greatly increase the slump of concrete?

- A. Superplasticizer
- B. Water-reducing agent
- C. Air-entraining agent
- D. Calcium chloride

Answer: A

Explanation:

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

In concrete technology, admixtures are used to modify properties of fresh or hardened concrete:

Air-entraining agents: Introduce microscopic air bubbles to improve freeze-thaw resistance; they do not increase slump.

Water-reducing agents: Reduce water content while maintaining slump; increase workability but only moderately.

Calcium chloride: An accelerator, speeds up setting time; does not increase slump.

Superplasticizers (also called high-range water reducers): Significantly increase the slump (workability) of concrete without adding extra water, making the mix more flowable and easier to place.

Thus, to greatly increase slump while maintaining water-cement ratio, the superplasticizer is the correct choice.

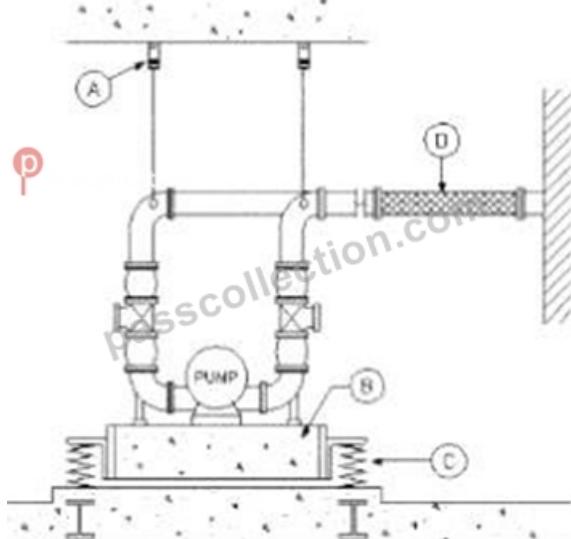
Supporting References:

NCARB ARE 5.0 Review Manual, Materials and Assemblies section

Portland Cement Association publications on admixtures

ACI (American Concrete Institute) guidelines on admixtures

NEW QUESTION # 93



Refer to the exhibit.

Which device allows for piping misalignment and isolation?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Understanding the Diagram

The image shows a pump installation detail with various vibration and alignment control devices:

* A - Typically a pipe hanger or suspension support to reduce strain on piping.

- * B - Likely a flexible electrical conduit (for pump motor connection).
- * C - Spring vibration isolators under the pump base to prevent vibration transmission into the building structure.
- * D - A flexible pipe connector (also called a flex connector or braided flexible coupling).

Purpose of Flexible Pipe Connectors

Flexible pipe connectors (D in the diagram) are designed to:

- * Absorb minor misalignment between connected piping systems.
- * Reduce stress on pump flanges due to thermal expansion, settlement, or installation tolerances.
- * Isolate vibration from the pump so that it is not transmitted along rigid piping to the building structure.

This makes them essential in mechanical systems where pumps, chillers, or other vibrating equipment connect to rigid building piping.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

- * A. Pipe hangers/supports - Maintain alignment and support vertical loads but do not allow for misalignment or vibration isolation in the same way as flexible connectors.
- * B. Electrical conduit/flexible connection - Relates to electrical supply flexibility, not piping alignment.
- * C. Spring vibration isolators - Isolate vibration from equipment to the floor but do not address piping misalignment.

NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD Study Guide References:

- * Content Area: Integration of Building Materials & Systems - Mechanical Systems Coordination
- * Source References:
 - * Mechanical and Electrical Equipment for Buildings (MEEB) - Chapter on Vibration Isolation & Pump Installation
 - * Architectural Graphic Standards - Flexible Connector & Piping Details
- * Key Point: Flexible connectors at pumps and equipment protect against misalignment, vibration, and stress transfer to the piping system.

NEW QUESTION # 94

Specifications and details for repointing deteriorated masonry joints in historic soft-brick buildings should result in which one of the following?

- A. Deeper joint profiles
- B. An increased mortar strength over the original mortar
- C. A bond between the existing masonry and the new mortar that is stronger than the brick
- D. **The duplication of original mortar strength**

Answer: D

Explanation:

Understanding the Problem

This question is about historic masonry restoration - specifically, repointing deteriorated mortar joints in soft-brick buildings.

Historic bricks, especially those made before the early 20th century, are often much softer and more porous than modern high-fired bricks. The mortar originally used was also softer, usually lime-based, which allowed for thermal movement, moisture permeability, and protection of the brick units.

Why the Correct Answer is "Duplication of Original Mortar Strength"

- * Best practice in preservation (as outlined in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties) is to match the original mortar in strength, composition, permeability, and appearance.
- * A mortar stronger than the original can cause the softer brick to crack or spall under thermal or moisture stresses, because the brick will end up being the weaker link and take the damage.
- * Duplication ensures that the new mortar works compatibly with the old masonry system - allowing for similar vapor transmission and structural flexibility.

Why the Other Options Are Incorrect:

- * B. Increased mortar strength over the original mortar - This is harmful in historic soft-brick construction. Stronger cement-based mortars can trap moisture in the brick, leading to freeze-thaw damage and spalling.
- * C. A bond stronger than the brick - This would cause the brick to fail first when stress occurs, which is undesirable in preservation work.
- * D. Deeper joint profiles - Deeply raking out joints unnecessarily can damage surrounding brick edges and change the visual proportions; repointing depth should only be enough to remove deteriorated mortar (typically 2-2.5 times the joint width).

NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD Study Guide References:

- * Content Area: Integration of Building Materials & Systems - Historic Preservation Techniques
- * Key Resources:
 - * The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation & Illustrated Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings
 - * National Park Service Preservation Brief 2: "Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings"
 - * Building Construction Illustrated - Masonry Restoration
- * Key Preservation Principle: "New mortar should match the historic mortar in composition, strength, and vapor permeability."

NEW QUESTION # 95

In the design of a barrier-free access route, door locksets should be equipped with which one of the following?

- A. Panic devices
- B. Knurled knobs
- C. Lever handles
- D. Grip handles with thumbpieces

Answer: C

Explanation:

For barrier-free (ADA) accessible routes, operable parts such as door hardware must be usable with one hand and not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist (2010 ADA Standards §404.2.7). Lever handles meet this requirement because they can be operated by users with limited grip strength or dexterity.

- A). Grip handles with thumbpieces - Often require pinching or twisting; not compliant for barrier-free.
- B). Knurled knobs - Non-compliant because they require twisting and strong grip; also typically used for hazardous rooms as a tactile warning.
- D). Panic devices - Allowed in certain egress conditions but not the universal ADA hardware requirement for standard accessible doors.

PDD Reference: ARE 5.0 Handbook, PDD "Codes and Regulations-Accessibility," 2010 ADA Standards §404.2.7, ICC A117.1 Accessibility Standard.

NEW QUESTION # 96

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