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## NCARB PDD Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration of Building Materials &amp; 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.</li> </ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Manual &amp; 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.</li> </ul>

Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Codes &amp; Regulations:</b> 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.</li> </ul>
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## Real PDD Exam Questions - New PDD Test Guide

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### NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Sample Questions (Q95-Q100):

#### NEW QUESTION # 95

Which of the following have natural resins that resist termite attack? (Check the two that apply)

- A. Southern yellow pine
- B. Cypress
- C. Red cedar
- D. Douglas fir
- E. Hemlock
- F. Oak

**Answer: B,C**

Explanation:

In wood selection for exterior construction, certain species' heartwoods contain natural extractives/resins that deter decay and insect activity. Western Red Cedar and Cypress are well known for natural durability and termite resistance without chemical treatment. Species such as Douglas fir, hemlock, southern yellow pine, and most oaks are not reliably termite-resistant in their sapwood and typically require preservative treatment for use in termite zones.

PDD References: NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD content area "Materials & Assemblies-Wood" (durability/decay resistance), CSI Div. 06 wood materials selection notes, and IBC Appx. on decay- and termite-prone areas- select naturally durable species or preservative treatment.

#### NEW QUESTION # 96

Which of the following is an advantage of using a glycol-cooled air conditioning unit for a computer room?

- A. It reduces the amount of heat exhausted from the computer room.
- B. Glycol is cheaper than water for cooling.
- C. Glycol units are a sustainable cooling solution.
- D. It allows for a greater distance from the computer room to the outside unit.

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Glycol-cooled air conditioning systems use a glycol-water mixture as a secondary coolant instead of plain water. Glycol has lower freezing point and better heat transfer properties in certain conditions.

Advantages include:

Longer piping runs without freezing risk, allowing the chiller or cooling unit to be located further away from the computer room, useful for flexible building layouts.

Glycol prevents freezing in cold climates or exposed pipes.

It does not inherently reduce heat exhausted or is necessarily more sustainable than water cooling.

Glycol is generally more expensive than water.

Therefore, the primary advantage is the ability to locate the cooling unit farther from the space being cooled.

References:

NCARB ARE 5.0 Review Manual, Mechanical Systems chapter

HVAC system design manuals

ASHRAE guidelines on computer room cooling and chilled water systems

### NEW QUESTION # 97

□ Refer to the exhibit.

Using metal stud framing, how many screws per stud are needed to connect the header if each screw is rated at 440 pounds for shear and 215 pounds for tension?

- A. 0
- **B. 1**
- C. 2
- D. 3

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Given:

Load (W) = 1,600 lb

Screw shear capacity = 440 lb per screw

Screw tension capacity = 215 lb per screw

Assuming worst case is shear capacity (usually governs):

□ If tension applies, 8 screws needed.

But typically, shear governs for header connection; since question likely focuses on shear, 4 screws would be safest.

If question expects minimal number to resist both, 8 screws would be correct.

Final answer: 4 screws (Option C) if shear governs; if considering tension also, 8 screws (Option D).

Since the question is ambiguous, and shear usually controls, C. 4 screws is appropriate.

Reference:

NCARB ARE 5.0 Review Manual, Structural Systems chapter

Metal stud framing connection design standards

### NEW QUESTION # 98

Which system would most impact the structural loads in a vegetated roof design?

- A. Fire suppression system
- **B. Green roofing assemblies**
- C. HVAC duct routing
- D. Lightning protection system

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Green roofing adds significant dead loads due to soil and water retention layers. Structural engineers must verify load-bearing capacity. This is tied to ARE Objective 3.2 on evaluating integration of building systems.

### NEW QUESTION # 99

Which document is the most appropriate location for specifying the finish material for casework?

- A. Outline Specifications
- **B. Project Manual - Division 06**
- C. Construction Drawings
- D. General Conditions

