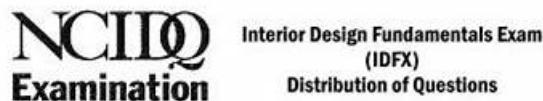


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The Interior Design Fundamentals Examination (IDFX) addresses the content areas of Building Systems, Construction Standards and Design Application. Candidates are given three hours to complete IDFX.

## INTERIOR DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS EXAM (IDFX)

CONTENT AREA	DISTRIBUTION
1. Knowledge of and skill in programming, sustainability and site analysis  For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research methods (interviewing, surveying, case studies, benchmarking/precedent)</li><li>• Quantitative analysis tools (e.g., functional program)</li><li>• Qualitative analysis tools (e.g., characteristics, special needs, image)</li><li>• Square footage measurement standards</li><li>• Project context<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Existing conditions</li><li>• Location</li><li>• Surroundings</li><li>• Views</li><li>• Geography</li></ul></li><li>• Indoor air quality</li><li>• Energy conservation</li><li>• Renewable resources</li></ul>	20 Questions 20% of test
2. Knowledge of and skill in application of design theory and the relationship between human behavior and the designed environment  For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Influences (environmental, social, psychological, cultural, aesthetic, global)</li><li>• Economic factors</li><li>• Ergonomics</li><li>• Anthropometrics (e.g., relationship of object to body)</li><li>• Proxemics (e.g., territoriality)</li><li>• Programming</li><li>• Acoustics</li><li>• Universal Design</li><li>• Aging in Place</li><li>• Life safety</li></ul>	17 Questions 17% of test

## INTERIOR DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS EXAM (IDFX) CONTENT AREAS

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## CIDQ IDFX Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Professional Development and Ethics: This section of the exam measures skills of a Design Consultant and emphasizes the importance of ethical practice and ongoing learning. Candidates demonstrate familiarity with professional codes of conduct, consumer?protection principles, and strategies for continuing education and engagement with industry organizations.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Life Safety and Universal Design: This section of the exam measures skills of a Design Consultant and addresses the principles that protect occupants and ensure accessibility. Candidates demonstrate knowledge of life?safety requirements—such as egress paths, fire separation, and alarm coordination—as well as universal design strategies that accommodate diverse abilities and special?needs populations.</li></ul>

Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interior Building Materials and Finishes: This section of the exam measures skills of an Interior Designer and explores the selection and specification of surface materials. Examinees must show comprehension of the performance standards, installation methods, and technical considerations for textiles, floor coverings, wall and ceiling treatments, acoustical products, and signage within interior environments.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relationship between Human Behavior and the Designed Environment: This section of the exam measures skills of a Design Consultant and covers interpreting how people interact with spaces. Examinees demonstrate an understanding of human factors—from ergonomic dimensions to social and cultural influences—and how universal design principles ensure accessibility and inclusivity, while also considering sensory impacts such as lighting, acoustics, and thermal comfort.</li> </ul>
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design Communication Techniques: This section of the exam measures skills of an Interior Designer and focuses on translating research and concepts into clear visual formats. Test-takers show how they develop charts, infographics, and conceptual diagrams to convey ideas, and how they organize planning diagrams—like adjacency studies and zoning plans—to guide the layout and functional relationships within a space.</li> </ul>

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### **CIDQ Interior Design Fundamentals Exam Sample Questions (Q60-Q65):**

#### **NEW QUESTION # 60**

A client has asked the designer to design a brochure rack for the waiting room of a clinic. The rack must be accessible to all adult patients. What should be the MAXIMUM height of the brochure rack?

- A. 54" [1372 mm] above finished floor
- B. 66" [1676 mm] above finished floor
- C. 60" [1524 mm] above finished floor
- D. 48" [1219 mm] above finished floor

#### **Answer: A**

##### **Explanation:**

For a brochure rack to be accessible to all adult patients, including those with disabilities, it must comply with ADA accessibility guidelines. The ADA specifies that the maximum reach height for operable parts (like a brochure rack) is 54 inches (1372 mm) above the finished floor for a side reach, assuming a clear floor space for a wheelchair user. This height ensures that individuals, including those in wheelchairs, can access the brochures without undue difficulty. Option A (48") is within the forward reach limit but is unnecessarily restrictive for a side reach. Options C (60") and D (66") exceed the ADA maximum reach height, making the rack inaccessible to some users.

##### **Verified Answer from Official Source:**

The correct answer is verified using NCIDQ IDFX content on accessibility standards.

Exact Extract: The NCIDQ IDFX Reference Manual references ADA standards, stating, "The maximum height for operable parts, such as a brochure rack, is 54 inches (1372 mm) above the finished floor for a side reach to ensure accessibility." The NCIDQ IDFX curriculum requires designers to apply ADA standards to ensure accessibility, with specific reach ranges for operable elements like brochure racks.

##### **Objectives:**

\* Apply accessibility standards to design elements (IDFX Objective: Codes and Standards).

#### **NEW QUESTION # 61**

Which sink is accessible in a corporate break room?

- A. An undermount stainless steel sink at 34" H [864 mm] with a 30" x 42" [762 mm x 1219 mm] side approach and grab bar.
- B. A porcelain drop-in sink with exposed rim installed at 34" H [864 mm] with a 30" x 48" [762 mm x 1219 mm] front approach and insulated piping.
- C. An integral solid surface sink at 34" H [864 mm] with a 30" x 48" [762 mm x 1219 mm] front approach and insulated piping.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

For a sink to be accessible in a corporate break room, it must comply with ADA standards, which include a maximum height of 34 inches (864 mm) above the finished floor, a clear floor space for approach, and knee space for wheelchair users. Additionally, exposed pipes must be insulated to prevent burns. Option A (integral solid surface sink at 34" H with a 30" x 48" front approach and insulated piping) meets all requirements: the height is correct, the front approach space is adequate, and the piping is insulated.

Option B (undermount stainless steel sink with a side approach) has a 30" x 42" approach, which is too narrow for a side approach (ADA requires 30" x 48"), and a grab bar is not required for a sink. Option C (porcelain drop-in sink with exposed rim) may pose a barrier due to the rim, which can obstruct access for wheelchair users, despite meeting other criteria.

Verified Answer from Official Source:

The correct answer is verified using NCIDQ IDFX content on accessibility standards.

Exact Extract: The NCIDQ IDFX Reference Manual references ADA standards, stating, "An accessible sink must be no higher than 34 inches (864 mm), provide a 30" x 48" front approach, and have insulated piping to protect wheelchair users." The NCIDQ IDFX curriculum requires designers to apply ADA standards for accessible fixtures, with Option A fully meeting the criteria for height, approach, and safety.

Objectives:

- \* Apply accessibility standards to break room design (IDFX Objective: Codes and Standards).

## NEW QUESTION # 62

A completed programming package MUST contain which feature?

- A. Selection of colors and finishes
- B. A list of project needs and concerns
- C. Preliminary drawings and design concepts
- D. A budget with detailed cost estimates

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The programming phase in interior design involves gathering and analyzing information to define the project's requirements. A completed programming package must include a list of project needs and concerns, such as spatial requirements, functional needs, and client goals, as this forms the foundation for the design process.

Option A (selection of colors and finishes) occurs later, during the design development phase. Option C (budget with detailed cost estimates) may be part of programming but is not a required component of the package. Option D (preliminary drawings and design concepts) is part of the schematic design phase, not programming.

Verified Answer from Official Source:

The correct answer is verified using NCIDQ IDFX content on the programming phase.

Exact Extract: The NCIDQ IDFX Reference Manual states, "The programming package must include a comprehensive list of project needs and concerns, including spatial, functional, and client-specific requirements." The NCIDQ IDFX curriculum defines programming as the process of identifying the client's needs and project requirements, which are documented in a programming package to guide the design process.

Objectives:

- \* Understand the components of the programming phase (IDFX Objective: Programming and Site Analysis).

## NEW QUESTION # 63

How is building code satisfied in a mixed-use property that includes a cafe, retail, and office tenant?

- A. Installing an automatic sprinkler system for each tenant
- B. Building a demising wall that extends to the underside of the structure
- C. Requesting that the landlord apply for change of occupancy

- D. Constructing fire resistance-rated assemblies between the tenants

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

A mixed-use property with a cafe (likely Group A-2, Assembly), retail (Group M, Mercantile), and office (Group B, Business) tenants involves multiple occupancy classifications, as defined by the International Building Code (IBC). The NCIDQ IDFX Reference Manual and IBC Chapter 5 (General Building Heights and Areas) provide requirements for handling mixed occupancies to ensure fire safety and compliance.

The IBC offers three approaches for mixed occupancies:

- \* Non-separated occupancies(IBC Section 508.3): Occupancies are treated as a single occupancy based on the most restrictive requirements, with no fire-rated separations required.
- \* Separated occupancies(IBC Section 508.4): Occupancies are separated by fire resistance-rated assemblies (e.g., walls, floors), with ratings determined by IBC Table 508.4 based on the occupancy types.
- \* Accessory occupancies(IBC Section 508.2): A smaller occupancy is considered accessory to the main occupancy and does not require separation if it meets certain size limits.

Given the distinct nature of a cafe, retail, and office, the separated occupancies approach is most appropriate to ensure safety. Let's evaluate the options:

- \* A. Installing an automatic sprinkler system for each tenant: While sprinklers can reduce fire ratings or increase allowable area (per IBC Section 903), they are not the primary method to satisfy building code for mixed occupancies. Sprinklers may be required depending on the occupancy and size, but the code still requires separation unless the non-separated approach is used.
- \* B. Building a demising wall that extends to the underside of the structure: A demising wall separates tenant spaces, but "extending to the underside of the structure" (e.g., the floor slab above) does not necessarily mean it is fire-rated. Without a fire resistance rating, this wall does not meet the requirements for separated occupancies under IBC Section 508.4.
- \* C. Requesting that the landlord apply for change of occupancy: A change of occupancy applies when converting a building from one use to another (e.g., office to residential, per IBC Chapter 10). In a mixed-use property, the occupancies are already defined (cafe, retail, office), so a change of occupancy is not relevant.
- \* D. Constructing fire resistance-rated assemblies between the tenants: This is the correct approach for separated occupancies. IBC Table 508.4 specifies the required fire resistance ratings between occupancies. For example, between Group A-2 (cafe) and Group B (office), a 2-hour fire resistance- rated assembly is typically required in a non-sprinklered building (1 hour if sprinklered). Between Group M (retail) and Group B (office), a 1-hour rating is often required. These fire-rated assemblies (walls and floors) ensure fire safety by preventing the spread of fire between occupancies, satisfying the building code for a mixed-use property.

The NCIDQ IDFX Reference Manual confirms that constructing fire resistance-rated assemblies between tenants is the standard method to satisfy building code requirements for mixed occupancies, ensuring safety and compliance.

Verified Answer from Official Source: The correct answer is D, as verified by the NCIDQ IDFX Reference Manual and IBC Section 508.

Exact Extract:

From the NCIDQ IDFX Reference Manual (Chapter 2: Building Codes and Standards): "In a mixed-use property, building code is satisfied by constructing fire resistance-rated assemblies between tenants to separate occupancies, as required by the IBC."

Explanation from Official Source:

The NCIDQ IDFX Reference Manual explains that the separated occupancies approach, using fire resistance- rated assemblies (e.g., walls, floors) between tenants, is the standard method to comply with building code in a mixed-use property. This ensures fire safety by preventing fire spread between different occupancy types, as specified in IBC Table 508.4, making it the most appropriate solution.

Objectives:

- \* Understand building code requirements for mixed-use properties.
- \* Apply the separated occupancies approach to ensure fire safety in design.

**NEW QUESTION # 64**

What standard should be referenced when specifying upholstered furniture to maintain air quality?

- A. BIFMA
- B. NSF
- C. BOMA
- D. LEED

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

When specifying upholstered furniture to maintain air quality, the designer must consider standards that address indoor environmental

quality, particularly emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from furniture. The Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA) provides standards like BIFMA e3, which includes criteria for low-emission furniture to ensure good indoor air quality. Option A (NSF) focuses on food safety and water quality, not furniture. Option B (LEED) is a green building certification that includes air quality credits but is not specific to furniture standards. Option C (BOMA) deals with building measurement standards, not air quality.

Verified Answer from Official Source:

The correct answer is verified using NCIDQ IDFX content on sustainable design and material specifications.

Exact Extract: The NCIDQ IDFX Reference Manual states, "BIFMA standards, such as BIFMA e3, should be referenced when specifying upholstered furniture to ensure low emissions and maintain indoor air quality." The NCIDQ IDFX curriculum includes sustainable design principles, with BIFMA standards being a key reference for furniture specifications to support indoor air quality.

### Objectives.

\* Specify materials for indoor air quality (IDFA) Objective: Material Selection and Specification).

## NEW QUESTION # 65

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