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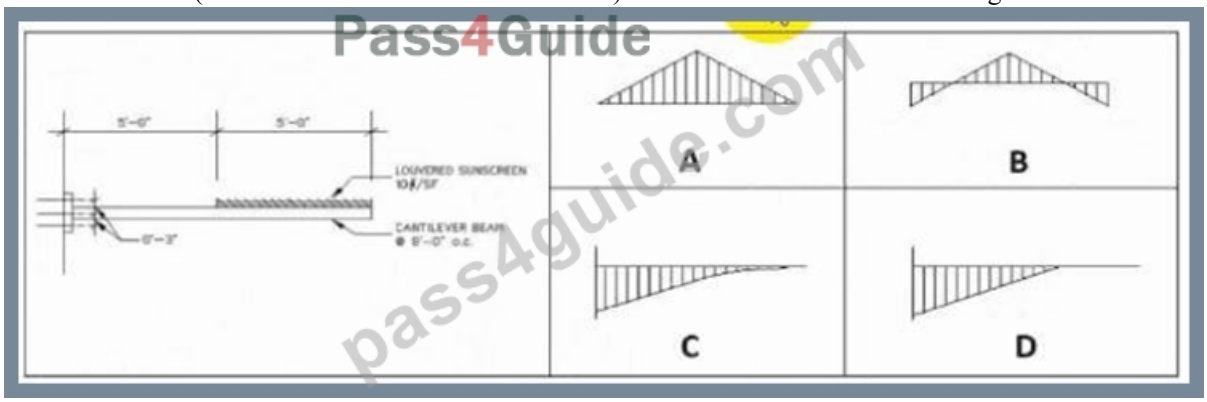
NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• Project Costs & 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.
Topic 2	• Codes & 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.

Topic 3	• Project Integration of Program & 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.
Topic 4	• Building Systems, Materials, & 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.
Topic 5	• Environmental Conditions & 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.

NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q47-Q52):

NEW QUESTION # 47
Refer to the exhibit (louvered sunscreen cantilevered with beam). Assume the cantilevered beam is weightless.



Which of the following is the moment diagram?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
For a cantilevered beam loaded uniformly (such as a louvered sunscreen), the bending moment diagram is characterized by:
Maximum negative moment (hogging moment) at the fixed support (where the beam is anchored to the building). This is a large negative moment because the beam is fixed and resists rotation.
The moment decreases linearly to zero at the free end of the cantilever.
Diagram C shows this pattern with maximum moment at the support tapering to zero at the free end, consistent with static beam theory.
Other diagrams show positive moments or incorrect distributions.
This is a standard result taught in structural mechanics and referenced in ARE guidelines related to structural systems.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Structural Systems
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Structural Analysis

NEW QUESTION # 48
An architect is designing an office building on an infill lot. The client wants to look at site design strategies to prevent erosion and

collection of excess surface water resulting from the new construction.
Which one of the following strategies directly addresses the client's requirement?

- A. Install pervious paving
- B. Install horizontal overhangs
- C. Install a catchment area

Answer: A

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
Pervious paving allows water to infiltrate through surfaces, reducing runoff and preventing erosion and surface water accumulation on site. It is an effective stormwater management technique suited to infill sites where space is limited.
A catchment area (B) collects water but does not prevent erosion or surface water by itself.
Horizontal overhangs (C) provide shading and weather protection but do not affect surface water runoff.
NCARB PPD guidelines emphasize permeable surfaces as key components of sustainable site design to manage stormwater onsite.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Site and Stormwater Design The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Sustainable Site Design

NEW QUESTION # 49
Which of the following are characteristics of heavy-timber construction? Check the four that apply.

- A. Relatively rapid on-site erection times
- B. Suitability to create unusual layouts or irregular forms
- C. Susceptibility to rot
- D. Fire resistance
- E. Presence of sapwood to prevent insect damage
- F. Susceptibility to differential shrinkage

Answer: A,C,D,F

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
Heavy timber construction is characterized by:
Fire resistance (A): Large timber members char on the surface when exposed to fire, which protects the structural core, giving inherent fire resistance.
Susceptibility to differential shrinkage (C): Heavy timber elements can shrink unevenly, potentially causing joints or connections to loosen.
Relatively rapid on-site erection times (D): Pre-fabricated heavy timber elements are large and can be quickly erected compared to traditional framing.
Susceptibility to rot (E): Without proper detailing and protection, timber can decay due to moisture exposure.
Unsuitable for unusual layouts or irregular forms (B): Heavy timber tends to be more rigid and better suited for regular layouts.
Presence of sapwood (F): Sapwood is generally more susceptible to insect attack; durable heartwood is preferred to resist insects.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, Heavy Timber Construction The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Wood Construction

NEW QUESTION # 50
An architect is commissioned to design a lodge in a location where the water service is insufficient for a sprinkler system. The architect plans to maximize sight lines by using exposed columns and roof structure in the primary assembly space.
Which of the following systems meet these requirements? Check the three that apply.

- A. 6" diameter steel columns with open web girders and joists
- B. 12" diameter peeled log columns with glulam beams and 4" wood decking
- C. 6" precast concrete columns, beams, and 8" precast concrete planks
- D. 3" light gauge steel columns with 6" "z" purlins and 28 gauge corrugated metal decking
- E. 8" cast-in-place concrete columns and beams and 8" precast planks
- F. 6 x 6 cedar columns with 6" light gauge "z" purlins and fire retardant treated plywood decking

Answer: A,B,F

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
When designing in locations with insufficient water service to support sprinkler systems, architects must rely on inherently fire-resistant materials or assemblies that can provide passive fire protection while also meeting the aesthetic and structural needs of the space. This is especially critical in assembly spaces where sight lines are important and exposed structure is desired.
* Option A: Steel columns with open web girders and joists are acceptable because steel does not combust and can be designed for fire resistance either by inherent fireproofing or applied fireproofing.
The open-web design also supports maximizing sight lines by minimizing visual obstruction.
* Option B: Large peeled log columns with glulam beams and wood decking are commonly used in lodge designs. Although wood is combustible, large timber members like glulam beams char on the surface and maintain structural capacity for a predictable duration under fire conditions, which often meets code for exposed timber in assembly spaces without sprinkler systems.
* Option F: Cedar columns with light gauge steel purlins and fire retardant treated plywood decking can be suitable where fire retardant treatment extends the fire resistance of wood members. This is an accepted strategy in areas lacking sprinkler protection, particularly for visual warmth and compatibility with lodge aesthetics.
* Options C and D: Concrete columns and beams are noncombustible but tend to be bulky and can obstruct sight lines.
Additionally, precast planks with concrete may not fit the desired exposed wood or open aesthetic.
* Option E: Light gauge steel columns with corrugated metal decking are lightweight and minimal, but
3" steel columns are structurally insufficient for large assembly spaces and metal decking without proper fireproofing is less common in exposed wood aesthetic projects.
These design choices align with NCARB's Project Planning & Design content regarding material selection for fire resistance, visual requirements, and assembly occupancy considerations. Specifically, the guidelines recommend using heavy timber, fire-retardant-treated wood, or protected steel systems where sprinkler systems are not feasible to comply with fire and life safety codes while addressing architectural intent.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD Content Outline: Building Systems, Materials, and Assemblies (NCARB) The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapter 13: Building Codes, Standards, and Regulations NCARB ARE 5.0 Guidelines: Fire Protection and Material Performance in Assembly Spaces

NEW QUESTION # 51
For a three-story building, which of the following is considered a vertical irregularity with respect to seismic design?

- A. The building has a significant reentrant corner on the front side.
- B. Interior symmetrically placed shear walls are four times as stiff as perimeter columns.
- C. The effective mass of the roof is one-half the mass of the floor immediately below.
- D. The effective mass of story 2 is two times the mass of story 1.

Answer: D

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
In seismic design, vertical irregularities are discontinuities or abrupt changes in the building's mass, stiffness, or geometry that can affect seismic response and increase vulnerability during an earthquake. The NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design guidelines describe vertical irregularities as changes occurring along the height of the building.
* Option C describes a mass irregularity where story 2 has twice the effective mass of story 1. According to seismic code provisions (such as those referenced in ASCE 7 and adopted by IBC), a vertical mass irregularity is present if the effective seismic mass in any story is more than 150% (1.5 times) or less than 70% (0.7 times) of the mass of an adjacent story. Here, doubling the mass is a significant vertical irregularity that affects the dynamic behavior and design.
* Option A, the roof mass being half that of the floor below, is a decrease in mass but less than the typical threshold of 30% difference (the ratio is 0.5, which is a 50% difference). This might also be considered, but the mass irregularity is more typically flagged at the 1.5x or 0.7x threshold and tends to be more critical in lower floors, making C the clearer choice.
* Option B describes a reentrant corner, which is a horizontal plan irregularity, not vertical. Reentrant corners affect torsional behavior but are not classified as vertical irregularities.
* Option D refers to stiffness differences between interior shear walls and perimeter columns but, when symmetrically placed, this is not necessarily considered an irregularity. Vertical stiffness irregularities are defined by abrupt stiffness changes in vertical elements, but symmetry mitigates torsional effects.
The presence of vertical mass irregularities significantly influences seismic forces distribution, dynamic response, and the potential for torsional motions. Designers must recognize these irregularities per NCARB guidelines and apply appropriate structural detailing and design modifications to meet life-safety requirements.

References:
ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design Outline: Environmental Conditions and Context - Seismic Design Considerations NCARB ARE 5.0 Guidelines, Seismic Design and Irregularities ASCE 7-16, Chapter 12 - Seismic Design Criteria The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapter 13: Building Codes, Standards, and Regulations

NEW QUESTION # 52
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