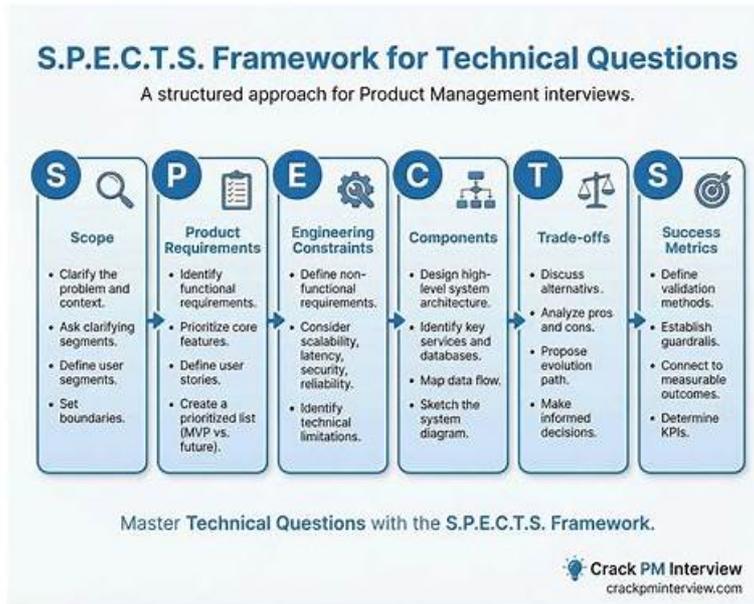


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NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details

Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q92-Q97):

NEW QUESTION # 92

When considering the IBC requirements, an architect can increase the number of options from which to select structural materials for an office building by doing which one of the following?

- A. Increasing the efficiency ratio
- B. Omitting 2-hour fire ratings
- C. Limiting the area of the building
- D. Increasing the occupant capacity

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Limiting the building area within allowable maximums based on occupancy and type increases the range of acceptable structural materials because larger buildings have stricter fire and structural requirements.

Increasing occupant capacity (A) increases code stringency.

Increasing efficiency ratio (B) is not an IBC classification.

Omitting 2-hour fire ratings (D) is not permitted and would reduce material options.

Thus, reducing building area allows more flexibility in structural material choices under IBC.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations, Building Materials and Fire Ratings The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Building Codes

NEW QUESTION # 93

An architect's client is focused on lighting energy savings and daylighting design in a new 3,000 ft² commercial building addition to expand showroom and office square footage. The client requests reasonable daylighting measures in the design.

What should the architect recommend to the client?

- A. Limit ample access to daylight to the interior spaces only
- B. Provide for daylight-responsive control of electric lighting

- C. Increase sunlight in the vicinity of critical visual tasks
- D. Isolate electric lighting for daylight-responsive control to within a single zone

Answer: B

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Daylight-responsive control systems automatically adjust electric lighting based on available natural light, reducing energy use and improving occupant comfort.

Isolating lighting to a single zone (A) limits effectiveness.

Limiting daylight access (C) reduces benefits.

Increasing sunlight near tasks (D) can cause glare.

Thus, providing daylight-responsive electric lighting control is recommended.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Daylighting

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Lighting Design

NEW QUESTION # 94

**TABLE 508.4
REQUIRED SEPARATION OF OCCUPANCIES (HOURS)¹**

OCCUPANCY	A-E		I-1, I-2, I-4		I-2		R*		F-2, S-2*, U		B*, F-1, M, S-1		H-1		H-2		H-3, H-4		H-5	
	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS	S	NS
A-E	N	N	1	2	2	NP	1	2	N	1	1	2	NP	NP	3	4	2	3	2	NP
F-1, I-1, I-4	1	2	N	N	2	NP	1	NP	1	2	1	2	NP	NP	3	NP	2	NP	2	NP
I-2	2	NP	2	NP	N	N	2	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	3	NP	2	NP	2	NP
R*	1	2	1	NP	2	NP	NP	NP	2	1	2	NP	NP	NP	3	NP	2	NP	2	NP
F-2, S-2*, U	N	1	1	2	NP	NP	2*	N	N	1	2	NP	NP	NP	3	4	2	3	2	NP
B*, F-1, M, S-1	1	2	1	2	2	NP	1	2	1	2	N	N	NP	NP	2	3	1	2	1	NP
H-1	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	N	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
H-2	3	4	3	NP	3	NP	3	NP	3	4	2	3	NP	NP	N	NP	1	NP	1	NP
H-3, H-4	2	3	2	NP	2	NP	2	NP	2	3	1	2	NP	NP	1	NP	1 ^a	NP	1	NP
H-5	2	NP	2	NP	2	NP	2	NP	2	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	1	NP	1	NP	N	NP

S = Buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.
NS = Buildings not equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.
N = No separation requirement.
NP = Not Permitted.
a. See Section 420.
b. The required separation from areas used only for private or pleasure vehicles shall be reduced by 1 hour but not to less than 1 hour.
c. See Sections 406.3.2 and 406.6.4.
d. Separation is not required between occupancies of the same classification.
e. See Section 422.2 for ambulatory care facilities.
f. Occupancy separations that serve to define fire areas limits established in Chapter 9 for requiring fire protection systems shall also comply with Section 707.3.10 and Table 707.3.10 in accordance with Section 901.7.

A new, sprinklered, mid-rise office building of Type II-A construction has a ground-level restaurant and offices above. The restaurant has an A-2 occupancy and the offices have a B occupancy. The architect needs to provide fire separation between the two occupancy types and select the most cost-efficient floor/ceiling assembly option.

Which one of the following assemblies is most appropriate?

- A. 2-hour-rated assembly with lightweight precast concrete
- B. 1-hour-rated assembly with 2 x 10 wood joists
- **C. 1-hour-rated assembly with open web steel joists @ 24" o.c.**

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

According to IBC Table 508.4, with sprinklers installed throughout (S), a 1-hour fire separation is required between A-2 and B occupancies in Type II-A construction.

Open web steel joists (C) can be used in 1-hour-rated assemblies, providing cost efficiency and structural flexibility.

Wood joists (A) might not meet Type II-A non-combustible requirements.

2-hour-rated precast concrete (B) is more costly than needed per code.

Thus, option C balances code compliance and cost.

References:

IBC Table 508.4

ARE 5.0 PPD - Codes and Regulations, Fire Separation

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Fire-Resistive Construction

NEW QUESTION # 95

A multistory warehouse is to be converted into a high-tech office building. The owners propose a variety of services and flexibility to tenants, including cable/internet, fiber optic communications, dish/satellite, and security systems.

In order to accommodate this broad array of electronic and communications services, the architect should recommend which of the following electrical and communications distribution systems?

- A. Raised access floor system
- B. Flat cable wiring system
- C. Poke-through system
- D. Cellular deck system

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

A raised access floor system provides a flexible, accessible space beneath the finished floor for routing power, data, telecommunications, and security cables. It facilitates easy reconfiguration and tenant fit-out modifications without major disruption.

Poke-through systems (A) provide limited point access for power/data and are less flexible for extensive rewiring.

Cellular deck systems (B) are structural components, not distribution systems.

Flat cable wiring (D) is a wiring method but does not provide the physical infrastructure for flexibility.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, Electrical and Communications Systems The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Data and Power Distribution

NEW QUESTION # 96

When laying out access routes and parking lots for an office building, which of the following strategies can increase the security of the site?

- A. Integrate shipping and receiving in one location
- B. Designate parking areas based on defined user groups
- C. Provide an equal amount of parking spaces on each side of the building
- D. Provide public access to all parking areas

Answer: B

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:

Designating parking areas for different user groups (e.g., employees, visitors, service vehicles) helps control access, monitor activity, and reduce unauthorized entry, improving site security.

Equal parking on all sides (A) does not affect security.

Integrating shipping and receiving (C) may improve logistics but not necessarily security.

Providing public access to all parking (D) can increase security risks.

NCARB PPD guidelines emphasize zoning and controlled access as key security strategies.

References:

ARE 5.0 PPD - Environmental Conditions and Context, Site Security

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

NEW QUESTION # 97

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