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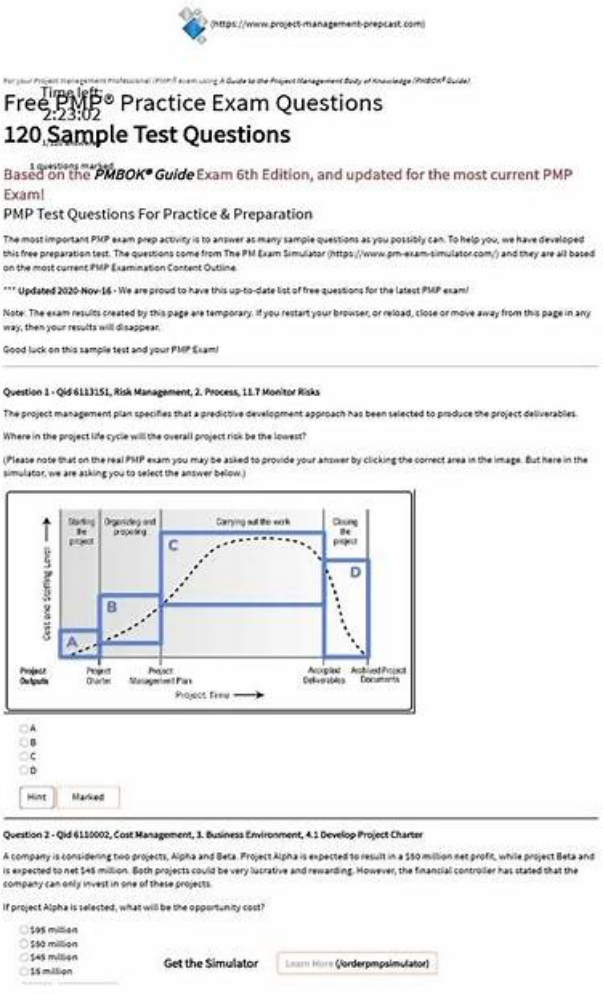

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NCARB Project-Planning-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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 2	• 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 3	• 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	• 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	• 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.

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NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design (PPD) Sample Questions (Q15-Q20):

NEW QUESTION # 15
Refer to the exhibit (graph of moving walkway speed vs. nominal passengers per hour).
Based on the graphic shown, which of the following moving walkway speeds will deliver 4,500 passengers per hour utilizing a single lane?

- A. 150 ft per minute
- B. 110 ft per minute
- C. 170 ft per minute
- D. 130 ft per minute

Answer: A

Explanation:
The graph plots moving walkway speeds (feet per minute) on the horizontal axis against the nominal number of passengers per hour on the vertical axis. The curve labeled "Single Lane (90 cm tread width)" shows the passenger capacity for different speeds of a single moving walkway lane.
* For a nominal passenger flow of 4,500 passengers per hour on a single lane, trace horizontally from 4,500 on the vertical axis to intersect the single lane curve.
* The intersection corresponds approximately to a speed of 150 feet per minute (fpm).
* Speeds lower than 150 fpm (e.g., 110 or 130 fpm) correspond to lower passenger capacities (below 4,500), while 170 fpm exceeds 4,500 capacity.
This data is important for architects and planners to size and specify moving walkways in transit terminals, airports, or large public buildings to maintain efficient flow and minimize congestion.
According to NCARB's ARE Project Planning & Design guidelines, understanding capacity and circulation rates for building systems such as moving walkways is essential for designing efficient pedestrian movement and circulation within complex buildings.
References:

ARE 5.0 Project Planning & Design Content Outline: Environmental Conditions and Context - Circulation and Transit Systems Black Spectacles ARE Study Materials: Moving Walkways and Passenger Flow Rates The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition, Chapter 7: Circulation and Accessibility

NEW QUESTION # 16
Program requirements for a hospital with a clear span of 70 feet include minimal disruption of the hospital routine for future mechanical and electrical repairs and alterations and a maximum economical flexibility of the structure.
Which of the following structural systems is most appropriate?

- A. Precast concrete planks
- B. Plate girders
- C. Interstitial trusses
- D. Composite floor beams

Answer: C

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
Interstitial trusses provide a structural space between floors specifically designed for mechanical and electrical systems, allowing future repairs and alterations without disrupting hospital routines. This system supports large spans and offers flexible layouts, aligning well with the hospital's needs.
Plate girders (B) and composite beams (C) do not inherently provide interstitial spaces and can limit flexibility.
Precast concrete planks (D) are durable but limit access to mechanical systems, increasing disruption during maintenance.
Therefore, interstitial trusses best support minimal disruption and structural flexibility.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Structural Systems for Healthcare

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NEW QUESTION # 17
An architect is designing a multistory student housing project to be built of light wood framing. The following criteria must be met:
Minimize the floor assembly thickness
Maximize ceiling height
No individual HVAC room controls
No exposed ductwork
Which HVAC system should be selected for this project?

- A. Packaged terminal units (PTAC)
- B. Four-pipe fan-coil system
- C. Variable air volume (VAV)

Answer: B

Explanation:
For multistory residential buildings such as student housing with light wood framing, HVAC system selection must balance space constraints and occupant comfort. The requirement to minimize floor thickness and maximize ceiling height typically rules out bulky ductwork or ceiling-mounted systems.
Packaged Terminal Air Conditioners (PTACs) provide individual room control and require wall penetrations, conflicting with the "no individual HVAC room controls" and likely leading to more complex maintenance.
Variable Air Volume (VAV) systems typically require extensive ductwork and ceiling space, contradicting the goal to minimize floor thickness and eliminate exposed ductwork.
The Four-pipe fan-coil system is an efficient choice for this application: it uses small fan coil units within the ceiling or wall cavities with chilled and hot water supply pipes running vertically. This system minimizes the thickness of mechanical floors and allows centralized control rather than individual room controls. The fan coil units can be concealed, addressing the "no exposed ductwork" criterion.
This approach aligns with NCARB's guidance on HVAC system selection for multifamily and residential occupancies where ceiling height and floor thickness are critical constraints, and centralized control systems are preferred for ease of maintenance and energy management.
References:

ARE 5.0 PPD Study Guide - Building Systems and Assemblies
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Mechanical Systems NCARB Guidelines on HVAC Systems for Residential Buildings

NEW QUESTION # 18
A one-story residence in a dry climate with cold winter nights is designed with an unconditioned dirt floor crawlspace utilizing underfloor plumbing and HVAC ductwork. The owner is interested in using a concrete slab-on-grade floor instead of the pier-and-beam concrete floor over an open crawlspace as originally designed.
What are the impacts of changing the design to a slab-on-grade floor system? Check the two that apply.

- A. It will limit the types of flooring finishes available.
- B. It will limit future plumbing flexibility.
- C. It will have more steel reinforcing.
- D. It will allow for better moisture control.
- E. It will have warmer floors in the evenings.
- F. It will allow for HVAC ductwork installation.

Answer: B,E

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract:
Changing from a pier-and-beam system with an open crawlspace to a slab-on-grade floor has several impacts:
Warmer floors in the evenings (A): Concrete slab-on-grade floors have high thermal mass, which can absorb heat during the day and release it slowly, resulting in warmer floors at night, particularly beneficial in cold climates.
Limited future plumbing flexibility (C): Plumbing embedded in or beneath slabs is difficult to access or modify after construction, unlike crawlspaces that provide easier access to underfloor plumbing for repairs or modifications.
More steel reinforcing (B): While slabs do require reinforcement, this is often comparable or less than the framing required for pier-and-beam floors, so this is not necessarily an impact.
Flooring finishes (D): Slab floors can accommodate many finishes; thus, limitations are generally minimal.
Better moisture control (E): Slabs require moisture barriers and careful detailing to control moisture; crawlspaces can sometimes be easier to ventilate but may allow moisture intrusion if not properly designed.
HVAC ductwork installation (F): Crawlspaces allow ducts to be located under the floor; slabs typically require ducts to be placed above or within conditioned spaces.
Thus, the most significant impacts are warmer floors and reduced plumbing flexibility.
References:
ARE 5.0 PPD - Building Systems and Assemblies, Foundations and Floors
The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, 15th Edition - Building Construction Systems

NEW QUESTION # 19
For a three-story building, which of the following is considered a vertical irregularity with respect to seismic design?

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

Answer: C

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 # 20
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