Valid PDD Exam Prep, PDD Exam Syllabus


PDD Prep Exam 2024 (module 2)
Questions & Answers 2024/2025

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NCARB PDD Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• Integration of Building Materials & 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.
Topic 2	• 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.

Topic 3	• Codes & Regulations: 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.
Topic 4	• 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.:
Topic 5	• Project Manual & 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.

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NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Sample Questions (Q68-Q73):

NEW QUESTION # 68
A family-owned apple farm in the Upper Midwest is taking advantage of a change in the local zoning code that added a new Agri-Tourism class in the existing farm zone. This allows the Owner to build a new facility on their existing site. The building will be open to the public and include a brewery, distillery, tap room, and market. The architect is ready to submit the drawings to the Owner for the 50% construction documents review.
To accommodate a compressed construction schedule, the Owner will be utilizing a design-build process. The Contractor has submitted the Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB) shop drawings to the Architect for review, due to the lead time on this critical path item. Once construction begins, farming operations must be able to continue uninterrupted.
Key project information includes:
* Brewing and distilling will operate year-round.
* Brewery will initially include four fermenting tanks. Owner has requested space for at least two additional tanks. Potential expansion will be based on future sales.
* Distillery will produce 16% alcohol, which is classified as a flammable liquid. Fire separations are required.
* Tap Room is designed with seating for 300 people, not including exterior patio seating. It will have views to the working orchards and the historic buildings on site.
* Tap Room is scheduled to be open from August through November. Owner would like options to extend operating dates based on popularity.
* The Market area will feature local farm products and is not conditioned.
* Entire building will be fully sprinklered.
* Selected building materials are low-maintenance, as requested by the Owner, for durability and to reflect the nature of a working farm.
* Mechanical and electrical systems will be hung from the building structure. These loads are included in PEMB shop drawings.
* Public water and sewer is not available at the Project Site.
* Occupancy sensors are included to reduce utility costs and achieve energy conservation requirements.
The following resources are available for your reference:
* Architectural Drawings, including plans, elevations, sections, and schedules

* Consultant Drawings, including structural, HVAC, power distribution, and plumbing
* PEMB Shop Drawings
* Design and Construction Schedule
* Specification Excerpts, showing relevant spec sections
* IBC and ADA Excerpts, showing relevant code and accessibility sections
* After reviewing the documents, the architect discovers a coordination issue in the corridor.

Prior to completing the contract documents, the architect meets with the owner and confirms the scope of the new HVAC system is accurate for bidding. As a result of the meeting, the architect decides to include additional general notes on the site plan to assist the general contractor in bidding the related coordination of the new boilers being installed.
What note does the architect include?

- A. GC to coordinate gas service tie-ins with utility company.
- B. GC to coordinate results of city steam pressure and temperature test from utility company with boiler manufacturer.
- C. GC to coordinate location of fuel storage tanks.

Answer: C

Explanation:
Comprehensive Detailed Explanation with all NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation (PDD) Study Guide References The project is rural with no public water or sewer; by context there is likely no city steam and possibly no natural gas main. New boilers therefore need a fuel source on site (commonly LP/propane or fuel oil), and the site plan should direct the GC to coordinate fuel storage tank location (clearances, protection, truck access, setbacks, fire code).
A presumes a gas utility service that may not exist.
B presumes a city steam utility (not present).
PDD Reference: Division 01 coordination notes; IMC/IFC for on-site fuel storage clearances and protection; site plan general notes best practices.

NEW QUESTION # 69
Which of the following methods of mortar joint finishing has the greatest weatherability?

- A. Concave
- B. Weathered
- C. Extruded
- D. Raked

Answer: A

Explanation:
Mortar joint finishes impact water resistance and weatherability:
Concave joint is the most weather-resistant. The joint is compressed and curved inward, forming a dense, compact surface that sheds water effectively.
Weathered joint slopes outward but is less compact than concave.
Raked joint is recessed and can hold water, less weather-resistant.
Extruded joint protrudes and tends to trap water and dirt.
Therefore, concave joints provide the best weather protection.
Reference:
NCARB ARE 5.0 Review Manual, Materials and Assemblies chapter
Masonry construction standards and detailing guides

NEW QUESTION # 70
The single-line diagram for the electrical distribution system shown is for a multi-family project.
Click in the box on the single-line diagram where the transformer is located.

Answer:

Explanation:
Explanation:
The transformer is located in the first large box after the high-voltage primary feeders and before the secondary service conductors on the left side of the diagram.

Step-by-Step Reasoning
1. Understanding the diagram flow:
* The leftmost symbol represents high-voltage primary feeders from the utility (2,400V, 4,160V, 7,200 V, or 13,200V).
* Immediately after that, there is a large box labeled "Secondary Service conductors" with standard building service voltages (120/208, 120/240, 277/480 V).
* To get from primary (medium/high) voltage to these usable secondary voltages, you must step down the voltage - and that is done by a transformer.
2. Transformer location in electrical distribution:
* Transformers are always placed between the incoming primary service and the secondary distribution system in building diagrams.
* In this drawing, the transformer is symbolized by the first large square/rectangular box after the high- voltage primary feeders.
3. Why not any other box?
* The following boxes and lines after this first step are feeders, panels, and motor starters - they operate at secondary voltage.
* Only the transformer connects the utility high-voltage system to the building's lower-voltage system.
NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD References:
* Content Area: Electrical Systems - Service Entrance and Distribution
* Source References:
* MEEB (Mechanical and Electrical Equipment for Buildings) - Chapter on Transformers & Electrical Service
* NEC (National Electrical Code) Article 450 - Transformer Installation and Use
* Architectural Graphic Standards - Single-Line Diagrams for Electrical Distribution Key Point:
In building electrical distribution, the transformer is always between the high-voltage primary service and the secondary service conductors to step down voltage to a usable level for building loads.

NEW QUESTION # 71
Specifications and details for repointing deteriorated masonry joints in historic soft-brick buildings should result in which one of the following?

- A. The duplication of original mortar strength
- B. Deeper joint profiles
- C. A bond between the existing masonry and the new mortar that is stronger than the brick
- D. An increased mortar strength over the original mortar

Answer: A

Explanation:
Understanding the Problem
This question is about historic masonry restoration - specifically, repointing deteriorated mortar joints in soft-brick buildings. Historic bricks, especially those made before the early 20th century, are often much softer and more porous than modern high-fired bricks. The mortar originally used was also softer, usually lime-based, which allowed for thermal movement, moisture permeability, and protection of the brick units.
Why the Correct Answer is "Duplication of Original Mortar Strength"
* Best practice in preservation (as outlined in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties) is to match the original mortar in strength, composition, permeability, and appearance.
* A mortar stronger than the original can cause the softer brick to crack or spall under thermal or moisture stresses, because the brick will end up being the weaker link and take the damage.
* Duplication ensures that the new mortar works compatibly with the old masonry system - allowing for similar vapor transmission and structural flexibility.
Why the Other Options Are Incorrect:
* B. Increased mortar strength over the original mortar - This is harmful in historic soft-brick construction. Stronger cement-based mortars can trap moisture in the brick, leading to freeze-thaw damage and spalling.
* C. A bond stronger than the brick - This would cause the brick to fail first when stress occurs, which is undesirable in preservation work.
* D. Deeper joint profiles - Deeply raking out joints unnecessarily can damage surrounding brick edges and change the visual proportions; repointing depth should only be enough to remove deteriorated mortar (typically 2-2.5 times the joint width).
NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD Study Guide References:
* Content Area: Integration of Building Materials & Systems - Historic Preservation Techniques
* Key Resources:
* The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation & Illustrated Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings
* National Park Service Preservation Brief 2: "Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings"
* Building Construction Illustrated - Masonry Restoration
* Key Preservation Principle: "New mortar should match the historic mortar in composition, strength, and vapor permeability."

NEW QUESTION # 72

Refer to the exhibit.
The exterior cast-in-place concrete wall of a heated building is insulated with polyurethane slabs.
The concrete will be warmest in the winter if the insulation is applied as shown in which of the following?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:
To keep the concrete warmest in winter, place the continuous insulation on the exterior so the concrete mass stays inside the thermal envelope and sees interior temperatures. This reduces heat loss, limits risk of interstitial condensation at the concrete surface, and improves thermal lag. Option D shows all polyurethane insulation on the outside of the wall; A and B place some or all insulation inside, and C splits it-both allow more winter heat loss from the concrete.
PDD references: Building envelope heat flow & thermal mass strategy; continuous insulation placement (ASHRAE Fundamentals; NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD-Envelope & Thermal/Moisture Protection, CSI Div 07).

NEW QUESTION # 73

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