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USGBC LEED-AP-Homes Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Location & Transportation: This section of the exam measures the skills of an Environmental Planner. It focuses on how homes integrate with their surroundings and connect to transportation networks, emphasizing sustainable siting strategies aligned with urban planning practices.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Materials & Resources: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Sustainability Specialist. It emphasizes the selection and management of eco-friendly materials, efficient usage of resources, and implementation of waste reduction strategies to support green residential construction.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">LEED Process: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Green Building Consultant. It covers the comprehensive framework of the LEED Homes certification process, from understanding project eligibility and roles—such as green raters and quality assurance designees—to navigating certification requirements, the LEED verification process, and documentation submission to GBCI.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regional Priority Credits: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Regional Performance Advisor. It covers specific environmental credits that reflect local priorities, enabling tailored certification strategies that align with regional ecosystems or regulatory contexts.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Indoor Environmental Quality: This section of the exam measures the skills of an Architectural Designer. It addresses indoor air health, natural light, and ventilation requirements to ensure occupant comfort and durability, reflecting a home's capacity to provide a healthy and lasting living environment.

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USGBC LEED AP Homes (Residential) Exam Sample Questions (Q68-Q73):

NEW QUESTION # 68

A project team is pursuing Water Efficiency Credit, Outdoor Water Use. The site contains a total of 57,500 ft² (5,342 m²) of softscape.

What ratio of turf grass and native or adapted landscape is required to achieve four points for this credit? (Refer to the table below)

Turf grass area Native or adapted plant area Points

< 60%

> 25%

1

< 40%

> 50%

2

< 20%

> 75%

3

< 5%

> 75%

4

- A. 12,600 ft² (1,171 m²) turf grass and 40,000 ft² (3,716 m²) native or adapted landscape
- B. 4,500 ft² (418 m²) turf grass and 44,000 ft² (4,088 m²) native or adapted landscape
- C. 11,500 ft² (1,068 m²) turf grass and 40,000 ft² (3,716 m²) native or adapted landscape
- D. 2,500 ft² (232 m²) turf grass and 44,000 ft² (4,088 m²) native or adapted landscape

Answer: D

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Water Efficiency (WE) Credit: Outdoor Water Use, which awards points based on the ratio of turf grass (high water use) to native or adapted plants (low water use) in the softscape to reduce irrigation needs.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use (1-4 points)

Reduce outdoor water use by selecting native or adapted plants and limiting turf grass. Points are awarded based on the percentage of softscape area:

* < 5% turf grass and > 75% native or adapted plants: 4 points. The total softscape area is used to calculate the percentages of turf grass and native/adapted plants. Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Water Efficiency Credit: Outdoor Water Use, p. 98-99.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use

Achieve 4 points by ensuring less than 5% of the softscape is turf grass and more than 75% is native or adapted plants, based on area calculations.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

Calculation for 4 points:

* Total softscape area: 57,500 ft².

* For 4 points:

* Turf grass: < 5% of 57,500 ft² = < 0.05 × 57,500 = < 2,875 ft².

* Native or adapted plants: > 75% of 57,500 ft² = > 0.75 × 57,500 = > 43,125 ft².

Evaluate options:

* A. 12,600 ft² turf grass and 40,000 ft² native or adapted:

* Turf grass: 12,600 / 57,500 = 21.91% (> 5%).

- * Native: $40,000 / 57,500 = 69.57\% (< 75\%)$.
- * Does not meet 4-point criteria (only qualifies for 1 point: < 60% turf, > 25% native).
- * B. $11,500 \text{ ft}^2$ turf grass and $40,000 \text{ ft}^2$ native or adapted:
- * Turf grass: $11,500 / 57,500 = 20\% (> 5\%)$.
- * Native: $40,000 / 57,500 = 69.57\% (< 75\%)$.
- * Does not meet 4-point criteria (qualifies for 2 points: < 40% turf, > 50% native).
- * C. $2,500 \text{ ft}^2$ turf grass and $44,000 \text{ ft}^2$ native or adapted:
- * Turf grass: $2,500 / 57,500 = 4.35\% (< 5\%)$.
- * Native: $44,000 / 57,500 = 76.52\% (> 75\%)$.
- * Meets 4-point criteria.
- * D. $4,500 \text{ ft}^2$ turf grass and $44,000 \text{ ft}^2$ native or adapted:
- * Turf grass: $4,500 / 57,500 = 7.83\% (> 5\%)$.
- * Native: $44,000 / 57,500 = 76.52\% (> 75\%)$.
- * Does not meet 4-point criteria (qualifies for 3 points: < 20% turf, > 75% native).

Answer Option C($2,500 \text{ ft}^2$ turf grass and $44,000 \text{ ft}^2$ native or adapted landscape) meets the requirements for 4 points.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes WE credits, including outdoor water use, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of the table's criteria.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Water Efficiency Credit: Outdoor Water Use, p. 98-99.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming softscape ratios.

NEW QUESTION # 69

Which of the following educational tools in a multi-family apartment building must be used to satisfy Energy and Atmosphere Prerequisite, Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager?

- A. A weekly meeting with tenants to raise any issues with building performance
- B. Signs on easels in the leasing center describing the sustainable features in each apartment
- C. Placards immediately adjacent to common area equipment promoting energy and water efficiency of the project
- D. **A one-hour walk-through with the building manager explaining function, operation, and maintenance of equipment**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The question references an "Energy and Atmosphere Prerequisite" for education, which appears to be a misnomer, as the LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes this requirement under the Innovation (IN) Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager. This prerequisite ensures occupants or managers are educated on sustainable features.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

IN Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager For multi-family buildings, provide a minimum one-hour walk-through with the building manager (or tenants) to explain the function, operation, and maintenance of equipment and systems, such as HVAC, water heating, and other sustainable features.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Innovation Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager, p. 188.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

IN Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner or Tenant

In multi-family projects, a one-hour walk-through with the building manager is required to educate on the operation and maintenance of green systems, ensuring effective use of sustainable features.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The correct answer is a one-hour walk-through with the building manager explaining function, operation, and maintenance of equipment (Option B), as this meets the prerequisite's requirement for multi-family buildings.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, IN Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager, p. 188.

C). A weekly meeting with tenants to raise any issues with building performance: Weekly meetings are not required; the prerequisite

specifies a one-time walk-through. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, IN Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager, p. 188.

D). Placards immediately adjacent to common area equipment promoting energy and water efficiency:

Placards are educational but do not satisfy the walk-through requirement. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, IN Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager, p. 188.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes IN prerequisites, including education requirements, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of the walk-through.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Innovation Prerequisite: Education of the Homeowner, Tenant, or Building Manager, p. 188.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming education requirements.

NEW QUESTION # 70

A shower stall was installed adjacent to an exterior wall prior to insulation installation. What is the impact to LEED for Homes certification?

- A. The home cannot be LEED certified until the walls are insulated in compliance with the Thermal Enclosure Checklist
- B. The overall R-value of the home's insulation must be increased to compensate for the deficit
- C. The prescriptive path for Energy and Atmosphere cannot be used
- D. The home energy model must include this feature so the HERS index score reflects it

Answer: A

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, which requires compliance with the Thermal Enclosure System Checklist to ensure proper insulation and airtightness for energy efficiency.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance

The project must comply with the Thermal Enclosure System Checklist, which requires that all exterior walls be fully insulated to meet or exceed specified R-values before other components (e.g., shower stalls) are installed. Insulation must be installed behind shower stalls or other fixtures adjacent to exterior walls to prevent thermal bridging and ensure compliance. Non-compliance with the checklist prevents certification until corrected.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Energy and Atmosphere Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

EA Prerequisite: Energy Performance

All exterior walls must be insulated in accordance with the Thermal Enclosure System Checklist. If components like shower stalls are installed before insulation, the home cannot be certified until the walls are properly insulated to meet the checklist requirements.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The correct answer is the home cannot be LEED certified until the walls are insulated in compliance with the Thermal Enclosure Checklist (Option D), as installing a shower stall before insulation violates the prerequisite's requirement for proper insulation installation.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

B). The home energy model must include this feature so the HERS index score reflects it: The HERS model assumes proper insulation; the issue is a construction error, not a modeling requirement. Reference:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

C). The overall R-value of the home's insulation must be increased to compensate for the deficit:

Increasing R-value elsewhere does not address the specific checklist requirement for insulation behind the shower stall. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Prerequisite:

Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EA prerequisites, including the Thermal Enclosure Checklist, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of insulation compliance.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Energy and Atmosphere Prerequisite: Minimum Energy Performance, p. 112.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming insulation checklist requirements.

NEW QUESTION # 71

A home in climate zone 2's window-to-floor area ratio increases from 10% to 30%. What is necessary to qualify for the Energy and Atmosphere Credit Windows?

- A. More stringent solar heat gain coefficient
- **B. More stringent U-factor requirement**
- C. Less stringent U-factor requirement
- D. Less stringent solar heat gain coefficient

Answer: B

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Energy and Atmosphere (EA) Credit: Windows, which sets performance requirements for windows to ensure energy efficiency, particularly in climates like zone 2 (hot, humid). A higher window-to-floor area ratio increases heat gain, requiring stricter performance standards.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

EA Credit: Windows (1-3 points)

In climate zone 2, for a window-to-floor area ratio exceeding 24% (or significantly increased, e.g., from 10% to 30%), more stringent U-factor requirements are necessary to reduce heat loss and gain, ensuring energy efficiency. The U-factor must be lower to compensate for the larger glazing area.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Windows, p. 122.

The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

EA Credit: Windows

For higher window-to-floor area ratios (e.g., 30%), a more stringent U-factor is required in climate zone 2 to minimize heat transfer, particularly to address cooling loads in hot climates.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The correct answer is more stringent U-factor requirement (Option B), as a lower and significantly increased window-to-floor area ratio requires a lower U-factor to maintain energy efficiency in climate zone 2.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Windows, p. 122.

C). Less stringent solar heat gain coefficient: In climate zone 2, a more stringent SHGC may also be needed, but U-factor is the primary concern for heat transfer control. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Windows, p. 122.

D). More stringent solar heat gain coefficient: While SHGC is relevant in hot climates, the question focuses on U-factor for thermal performance. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, EA Credit: Windows, p. 122.

The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes EA credits, including window performance, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of U-factor requirements.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Energy and Atmosphere Credit: Windows, p. 122.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming window performance requirements.

NEW QUESTION # 72

Sustainable Sites Prerequisite, No Invasive Plants requires that all site vegetation:

- A. Be listed by USDA Cooperative Extension Service or equivalent
- B. Be native to the project's region
- C. Be drought tolerant
- D. Provide shading to 25% of hardscapes

Answer: A

Explanation:

The LEED for Homes Rating System (v4) includes the Sustainable Sites (SS) Prerequisite: No Invasive Plants, which ensures that landscaping does not introduce invasive species that could harm local ecosystems.

According to the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction (v4):

SS Prerequisite: No Invasive Plants

All site vegetation must be non-invasive, as verified by the USDA Cooperative Extension Service or an equivalent authority (e.g., local native plant societies or university extension programs). Invasive species are those that are non-native and likely to cause environmental harm.

Source: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, Sustainable Sites Prerequisite: No Invasive Plants, p. 72. The LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C rating system confirms:

SS Prerequisite: No Invasive Plants

All plants must be verified as non-invasive by the USDA Cooperative Extension Service or equivalent to ensure they do not disrupt local ecosystems.

Source: LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, Credit Library, accessed via USGBC LEED Online.

The correct answer is be listed by USDA Cooperative Extension Service or equivalent (Option C), as this ensures that all site vegetation is non-invasive, meeting the prerequisite.

Why not the other options?

Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Prerequisite: No Invasive Plants, p. 72.

B). Be drought tolerant: This is relevant to WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use, not the No Invasive Plants prerequisite. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, WE Credit: Outdoor Water Use, p. 98.

D). Provide shading to 25% of hardscapes: This is related to SS Credit: Heat Island Reduction, not the No Invasive Plants prerequisite. Reference: LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, SS Credit: Heat Island Reduction, p. 80. The LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook emphasizes SS prerequisites, including invasive plant prevention, and references the LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction as a key resource. The exam is based on LEED v4, ensuring the relevance of USDA verification.

References:

LEED Reference Guide for Homes Design and Construction, v4, USGBC, Sustainable Sites Prerequisite: No Invasive Plants, p. 72.

LEED v4.1 Residential BD+C, USGBC LEED Credit Library, accessed via LEED Online (<https://www.usgbc.org/credits>).

LEED AP Homes Candidate Handbook, GBCI, October 2024, p. 12 (references study resources and exam scope based on LEED v4).

USGBC LEED for Homes Rating System (v4), available via USGBC website (<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-homes-design-and-construction-v4>).

LEED v4.1 for Homes, USGBC, accessed via LEED Online, confirming invasive plant verification.

NEW QUESTION # 73

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